JANUARY 2025 VOLUME 22 ISSUE 1

THE LOGGER'S BARK

a magazine

Radio Club of Tacoma 2025

New! **Apache Labs ANAN-G2 SDR Transceiver**
p. 80

In this issue:

- How to assemble a 10m Beacon Station p. 20
- Y2K revisited—25 years ago this month p. 38
- First sea rescue with CQD... but it *wasn't* Titanic! p. 51
- All about Vanity Call Signs p. 88
- Cool Old Rig of the Month: Ameco R5 Receiver p. 61
- Living Histories Videos: All 12 months of 2024 p. 78
- Pilot Wasp—first *commercial* ham receiver profile! p. 82
- See actual first key ever used to send SOS at sea! p. 53
- Chavis Scrapbook: 6-meter Bunny Hunt 1964 p. 30

Cover photo : WY7M
Chuck Gerarden
Colorado Contest Station
Winter 2021

W7DK 2024 Officers and Committee Leaders

Executive Committee:

President:	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Vice President:	Manny Adonis AD7MA
Secretary:	Gary McAdams WG7X
Treasurer:	Vacant

Board of Directors:

Board:	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
Board:	Dan Vacanti KD7SV
Board:	Doug Schafer AB7DG
Board:	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board:	Dave Ashley W7GEL

Key Committee Chairpersons:

Membership:	George K7GRS/Mike W7XH
Salmon Run:	George K7GRS/Mike W7XH
Infotech/IT:	Randy WB4SPB
HF Operations:	Phil K7PIA
Facilities:	Adam W2NCC
Property Mgmt.	Red WB7EC
Museum:	Dan KD7SV
Planning:	Manny AD7MA
POTA:	BJ KO7T
General Meeting:	Dave W7UUU
Bark layout & Editor:	Dave W7UUU
Assistant/Copy Editor:	Anne N7ANN

Contents

QUICK LINKS TO THE BIG STUFF!

Page 3 In Memoriam
Page 4 President's Corner
Page 5 From the Desk of the VP
Page 6 The Secretary's Report
Page 7 From the Editor's Desk
Page 9 Membership Report
Page 10 Ham Radio World News
Page 11 ARRL News & Views
Page 12 letters to the Editor
Page 93 Board of Directors Minutes
Page 99 General Meeting Minutes

But don't stop there! Each issue is 50 or more pages of fun and cool stuff to explore! Scroll on!

Have a submission for our next issue?

loggersbark@gmail.com

In Memoriam

Silent Keys & Friends Remembered

In memory of
Oliver "Ollie" Bond, AD7CC
February 1, 1928—December 23, 2024

With great sadness, we have to yet again report the loss of a beloved member of the Radio Club of Tacoma—Oliver "Ollie" Bond, AD7CC, passed away after a brief illness just before Christmas. Ollie joined the club in 2003 and quickly became a regular at club events. Just a few years ago, he was instrumental in helping the club get a new large storage shed built on the property. He was also a long-time donor as well. Outside the Radio Club of Tacoma, he was a Master Gardener with the Washington State University's Master Gardner program, and in 2024 was awarded the Pierce County Golden Service Award for more than 50 years in this role. Ollie was an educator his whole life, and was an inspiration to many over the decades. Just two months ago, in November 2024, Ollie was awarded an Honorary Membership of the club, and he was delighted and honored to accept the award at the November General Meeting, while in the company of his loving wife Florence. To view a short video of Ollie's involvement with the Master Gardeners, click the image on the right. As of this writing, a memorial service has not been announced but keep an eye on the club website for this. We will all miss you Ollie— ■ *-editor*

Ollie AD7CC and Florence Bond at the November RCT General Meeting

Click image to view a short video of Ollie at the Pierce County garden where he volunteered

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Monthly ruminations from our President

Adam Barbera W2NCC

HAPPY NEW YEAR W7DK MEMBERS

I am thrilled to step into 2025 as your newly-elected President with all of you, and to reflect on the incredible momentum we built together in 2024. The past year brought changes and opportunities, setting the stage for a bright New Year.

One of our standout accomplishments in 2024 was the transformation of the Logger's Bark. This revamped newsletter now feels totally like a real magazine, packed with engaging original articles and a design that reflects the *spirit of our club.*

We also took a major step forward with our general meetings by relocating them to the Eagles Club. This venue has not only provided the capacity to welcome over 100 attendees but has also enhanced the experience by offering food and a warm, welcoming environment. It's been wonderful to see members in person in this space.

A new addition to our funding efforts was the launch of our presence on Benevity. This platform enables companies like Microsoft to contribute to nonprofits like ours, creating new opportunities to support the club. If you're connected to a company participating in Benevity, consider using this method to support W7DK. This is a truly great avenue to help clubs.

In an effort to engage our members, we've renewed our focus on providing activities that are ham radio related and of interest to the community. The HF room's opening on Thursday evenings gives members a chance to connect, and enjoy getting on the air—sometimes for the first time!

Looking ahead to 2025, I'm excited about the new ideas percolating within our club. We're exploring initiatives to enhance member experiences, broaden community outreach, and ensure our long-term continued success. I'm eager to see new ideas developed and take flight this year. Also, I invite you to share your thoughts and get involved—talk to me!

Thank you for your enthusiasm and dedication to W7DK. Together, ***let's make 2025 a year to remember!***

73—*Adam Barbera W2NCC, President*

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

FROM THE DESK OF THE VP

Insights from our Vice President

Manny Adonis

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

I became active in ham radio during the COVID crisis, when I suddenly found myself with extra time to explore a long-held interest. My first exposure to ham radio was during my military service in the 1980s, but between building a career and raising a family, hobbies had to take a backseat. It wasn't until recently that I could finally pursue this passion. Shortly after earning my license, I joined the Radio Club of Tacoma (the Club) and have been actively involved ever since. What initially stood out to me was the camaraderie among members and their unwavering willingness to help one another. During Saturday Open House events at the clubhouse, I encountered members who were generous with their time and knowledge. Two individuals in particular, Gary McAdams, WG7X, and Bruce Hanson, WE7P, became mentors who played a significant role in my development and deepened my appreciation for the hobby.

This overwhelmingly positive early experience inspired me to fully commit to the Club, and before long, I became a life member.

In late 2023, I was honored to be appointed Chair of the Planning Committee. The committee was tasked with addressing pressing challenges, including membership retention, an aging member base, and waning interest in amateur radio among younger people. One of our key initiatives was the proposal to create a Training and Education Committee. Our goal is to provide a learning environment where anyone can develop their knowledge of amateur radio, build practical skills, and advance from the basics of radio theory to more complex operating techniques.

Now, as Vice-President, I remain dedicated to working with the Planning Committee while serving all members of the Club. I have no personal agenda; my focus is on collaborating with our talented membership to secure the Club's future. Together with Club President Adam Barbera, W2NCC, we are committed to making the Radio Club of Tacoma a premier amateur radio organization in the region.

As we look to 2025, I encourage every member to reflect on three key priorities:

- Acknowledge and honor the contributions of our senior members. Their dedication and expertise are invaluable to the Club.
- Embrace emerging technologies and perspectives from younger hams to ensure our continued growth and relevance.
- Bridge generational divides by fostering mutual respect, open dialogue, and collaboration to unite our membership in shared success.

The Radio Club of Tacoma has thrived for over a century. It is our shared responsibility to ensure it not only survives but grows stronger, setting the stage for another 100 years of excellence in amateur radio.

I look forward to getting to know more members of the club and wish all a safe and prosperous new year.

-Manny Adonis, AD7MA, Vice President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

W7DK Secretary—Gary WG7X

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA!

So, another year has passed. An interesting year to be sure, and my first year as your secretary. I've learned a lot this year, but still lack in many ways. Our last secretary, Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE, was—and still is—a hard act to follow, but I'm trying to follow in his footsteps.

So, enough about me.

It was a good year for our club, with many new faces showing up at the clubhouse on Saturdays and at our various meetings—most notably the General Meeting that is held at the Eagles Aerie in Tacoma now. It is a good venue for a meeting and has all the creature comforts.

We have our new President, Adam Barbera W2NCC, to thank for that. During his tenure as our Vice President, he found the venue and helped make the meetings much more interesting to the general membership. He is now moving up to President, and we wish him well in his new job.

This year is going to be interesting too, with many new things around the clubhouse: new, state-of-the-art equipment in our three HF stations; new door locks and alarms; and a new roof on the garage and shed. Way too many things to itemize completely here—keep an eye out for a lot of good things to come.

W7DK is going to be a force to reckon with this year. We plan to train folks on how to operate all this cool new stuff. We are also planning on getting involved with a bit more contest activity in the coming year. Many folks have expressed interest in being able to use our equipment for contesting and DX'ing. Because of this increase in requests, we have started a weekly Thursday evening operating time where members and non-members alike can come over and learn how to just get on the air. We always have control operators present, so even if you don't think you can try operating "The Mighty 'DK," we will be available to get you started.

It started a bit slowly but is rapidly gaining interest, and we are seeing more folks coming to the clubhouse for this operating event.

Speaking of operating events, most of you probably already know that W7DK held a Bigfoot Appreciation Day special event last month. This was a huge success, with literally thousands of hams piling up to get that contact, QSL card, and/or certificate. We plan to do it again next year, so get ready!

OK, that's enough from me this month. I hope that everyone had a great Christmas and New Year's!

-Gary McAdams, WG7X, Secretary

I HOPE THAT EVERYONE HAD A WONDERFUL

Holiday Season to close out 2024. I'd like to take this space ***to truly thank*** the kind folks at QRZ.com—CEO Jaime KF7WIS, Founder & President Fred AA7BQ, and Engineering Manager Stephen, VA7STV—for allowing me to publish *The Logger's Bark* to the front page of their site every month. It has truly been mutually beneficial—*The Bark* content helps drive traffic to the site, and the site clearly drives traffic to the Radio Club of Tacoma. As a result, we have had an influx of not only emails from QRZ *Bark* readers from around the United States, but also as far away as the European Union and Australia. We've not only received emails from abroad, we've started seeing *memberships* from out of state—and probably one day soon, from other countries. I can't promise how long the QRZ home page will be able to host *The Bark*, as the home page will likely be redesigned this coming year. But for as long as we are able to do so, a huge thanks to QRZ for this wonderful opportunity to share our club around the world.

As a streamlining effort (briefly mentioned in this space last month), I've revamped the Excel planning tool I use to organize The Bark. This already is working very well in my efforts to more efficiently assemble the magazine each month. As a part of this effort, I've been outlining feature articles to populate issues all the way to the end of 2025 (at which time my career as Bark editor will conclude).

As a result of these efforts, this issue has been a very pleasurable experience to assemble using these refined tools.

Another focus for 2025 will be soliciting more articles from you, the readers! Do you have a ham radio story to tell? Something you've done in the past or you're working on now that others might be interested in reading? I'd love to hear from you. And don't worry if you don't feel like you're the best of writers—none of us is! I always strive to gently "touch up and polish" submissions by readers, so that your submission reads as well as possible. Of course, clear photos are always a fun addition to any submitted piece.

The guidelines are simple:

- 250 words for a 1/2 page "blurb" (no illustrations)
- 400-500 words plus one illustration for a full page article (this is the preferred length for submissions)
- Anything longer than 500 words, please email me at the address below to discuss particulars.

- Please submit using ***plain text***—use MS Word, WordPad, or just Notepad. *But please no PDFs.*
- Please do not submit *any form of AI-generated text* from ChatGPT, Perplexity, etc. Articles must be written *entirely by "real human writers".*
- All submissions may be subject to editorial adjustments to length or content as needed to fit.

That's about it! Think about it—I'd love to see some reader submissions for future issues of The Bark!

Until next month, 73

-Dave W7UUU, Editor

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com

2024 LOGGER'S BARK COVERS IN REVIEW!

THE LOGGER'S BARK
Radio Club of Tacoma
HAPPY NEW YEAR
2024
In this issue:
Elecraft KH1 QRP Transceiver p. 61
New! Microcontroller World! p. 53
New! EmComm Section p. 53
New! W7DK Living Histories Series p. 60
New! RCT Way Back Photo Booth! p. 44
Find the hidden word contest! p. 59
And much much more!!

THE LOGGER'S BARK
Radio Club of Tacoma
Valentine's Day
TX-500 Transceiver
In this issue:
The BIG RESET! New Bark Date p. 4
New Hot Thing: TX-500 Transceiver p. 48
The Gotham Antenna revisited p. 65
Clipperton TX5S pulls the plug p. 39
Radio Hospital: XTAL substitute p. 29
W7DK Living Histories p. 47
HamTech 101: Propagation p. 71

THE LOGGER'S BARK
Radio Club of Tacoma
Mercury IHS Page p. 74
In this issue:
Emergency Preparedness Act Bill p. 9
Kitsap Memorial POTA Event p. 50
ADA Compliance and W7DK Clubhouse? p. 7
Camp Quest NorthWest! Full report p. 53
New! Ham Shack of the Month p. 74
Rickreall OR Hamfest report p. 59
EFHW antennas... the real deal? p. 84

THE LOGGER'S BARK
a magazine
Radio Club of Tacoma
Elecraft's new POCKET Kilowatt ! p. 78
In this issue:
22 Years Later—Joe Walsh WB6ACU p. 31
Tribute: Bob Heil K9EID (SK) 1940-2024 p. 14
In Review: Mike & Key Ham Fest p. 38
Cool old Rig: Heathkit HC-10 Console p. 81
Carl Mosley once visited W7DK! p. 87
New! Member Highlight! KA7RMG p. 20
BREAKING: Bob AD7LJ new WWA SM! p. 99

THE LOGGER'S BARK
Radio Club of Tacoma
a magazine
In this issue:
Air Mobile Part One: Cover Story p. 39
Zulu Time (UTC) Explained! p. 31
Biggest Ham Radio antenna EVER! p. 85
Two RCT members get highest honors p. 12
RCT Member AD7LJ Now WWA SM p. 9
Hot thing: QRP LABS QMX reviewed p. 75
QRP Kits: 2.2w XMTR built! On the air! p. 80

THE LOGGER'S BARK
Radio Club of Tacoma
a magazine
In this issue:
Hamvention 2024! KC7PS reports! p. 70
Field Day Practice Session 2024! p. 38
Air Mobile Part Two: With W7NY p. 91
End of an era: MFJ Closing down p. 7
New hot thing: Kenwood TH-D75 p. 69
Massive G5-level SOLAR STORM! p. 11
Way Back Photo booth: FD Edition! p. 44

THE LOGGER'S BARK
Radio Club of Tacoma
a magazine
In this issue:
FIELD DAY 2024! How did we do? p. 44
SEA-PAC 2024 Seaside Oregon p. 73
NEW! W7DK Meeting day & location! p. 25
Rocket Launcher Practice Day! p. 40
W7DK Membership rules changes p. 8
NEW! Monthly Safety Column p. 30
Limited Space Antennas SHOOTOUT! p. 94

THE LOGGER'S BARK
Radio Club of Tacoma
a magazine
NEW! Flex 8000 Series! p. 65
In this issue:
Important Bark changes p. 7
W7DK Summer Picnic happens SOON! p. 27
2024 Field Day Manager's Report p. 9
How to run a Flex Radio on LINUX!! P. 31
A Look Back at the Drake 2B Receiver p. 66
Souped-up performance Heathkit HW-71 p. 37
Q-Codes explained for new hams! p. 72
All About the Moxon Beam Antenna p. 69

THE LOGGER'S BARK
Radio Club of Tacoma
a magazine
NEW! Venus SW-6B! QRP Rig p. 60
In this issue:
New! "The Frugal Ham" column p. 45
Preview of Venus QRP Transceiver p. 60
"I'm Not Dead Yet!" K7MO FCC fiasco p. 28
Build an AMSAT CubeSat Simulator! p. 36
A look back— Century 21 Transceiver p. 62
10 tips for new hams: shack set up p. 65
Historic "Code Talkers" piece in museum p. 37

THE LOGGER'S BARK
Radio Club of Tacoma
a magazine
WOW!
NEW! Icom IC-7760 p. 74
In this issue:
The Day I Had Lightning in my Bedroom! p. 33
Bob Heil's EICO 720 now with K7MO p. 46
Mr. Vail's Code vs. Morse the Showman p. 41
Sasquatch Awareness Day Special Event! p. 28
Hot New Icom IC-7760... Is it so hot? p. 71
Frugal Hams: Floor Lamp & QDX on FT8 p. 53
Looking back: Harvey Wells TBS-50 p. 74

THE LOGGER'S BARK
Radio Club of Tacoma
a magazine
In this issue:
Phone Patches—a Rich History! p. 47
W7DK Bigfoot SES results IN! p. 36
Analog vs. Digital Antenna Analyzers p. 85
How the ARRL QSL Bureau works p. 89
Why Don't Call Signs Match Districts? p. 28
What is the TRUE history of "Hi Hi"? p. 31
New! Mystery Elmer Q&A Column! p. 22
1948 Design "Wood Stat" transmitter p. 60

THE LOGGER'S BARK
a magazine
Radio Club of Tacoma
Happy Holidays
In this issue:
The History of NOISE REDUCTION in radio systems! p. 30
The REAL story of the Wouff Hong & Rottyenlotli! p. 21
Holiday Gift Ideas for Ham Radio Operators! p. 25
Bigfoot Special Event—CERTIFICATES are mailed! p. 53
W7DK Soldering Class— A RESOUNDING Success! p. 41
Techs: WHY should you upgrade to General? p. 84
Old School Telegraphy Tech—the MILL! What is it? p. 68
The 1970s MYSTERY box! Can you guess its purpose? p. 27
All about the G5RV vs. the Z95BKW antennas! p. 51

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP IN THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA is getting a new look. Just a few years ago around 66% of our members were 65 and older. Pretty common in clubs across America. In fact on a recent zoom meeting with a radio club in Roanoke VA they expressed the same concern about an aging amateur radio community.

Since I took on the role as membership chairman, my focus has been on growth and member retention. I have also been vocal about insuring that our club was growing and expanding value for our members and member participation. With a membership of 265 in the beginning of January of 2024, I was challenged with building the membership to 400 by the end of the year. What on overwhelming task!

Let me show you the numbers as of mid-December 2024.

Associate 1 (in state)	4	Associate 2 (out of state)	3
Full	123	Senior	166
Family	23	Family Plus	1
Lifetime	33	Honorary	5
Student	1	Promotional	23

We actually have several student aged members that are listed as family members.

I did not make the goal of 400. We did however increase our membership to 382. Thank you club!

Several of our members live outside our state. Members support our club from Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, and Texas! I have not seen our first out of country member, but I believe it will happen. Several out of state members participated in our special event station "Bigfoot", thank you! Thank you to all who support ham radio both near and far.

Someone scared me when they uttered the words 500 in 2025. I believe it is possible with a financial commitment from the club and a healthy time commitment from our membership to be ambassadors to our community. This year has taught me that it is not the number of members in the club but the engagement and participation of those members that will make our club successful.

The "NEW LOOK", our club is getting younger! Our seniors now represent less than 50% of our membership. Seniors, not a time to rest with so many opportunities to mentor our younger members.

In closing, a big thank you to Loggers Bark, 4th Wednesday Night, Thursday night HF, Saturday open house, last Saturday, POTA, Field Day, Winter Field Day, fox hunt, Salmon Run, Straight Key, PMT, VE, Educators, and all ya all! Should not have made a list, someone always gets left out. Sorry, you're appreciated also!

Happy New Year!

-Mike W7XH

HAM RADIO WORLD NEWS

Amateur radio events from around the world

Web

RADIO D.A.R.C. TO BROADCAST OUT OF ENGLAND FROM JANUARY 2025

December 01, 2024 Colin Butler

For almost 10 years, RADIO D.A.R.C. have used the ORS transmitter in Moosbrunn near Vienna for its short wave broadcasts on Sunday mornings.

This will now stop at the end of the year as the station will be shut down. All attempts to save the site have failed, the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation wants to finally and completely give up the "short wave" business segment, which allegedly no longer fits into its business model, by December 31, 2024.

The situation is somewhat different in Woofferton, England, around 50 km west-southwest of Birmingham. The BBC broadcasting complex that exists there is operated by the subsidiary company ENCOMPASS MEDIA and has a total of 10 transmitters and just as many antennas.

Woofferton, England Shortwave Station

RADIO D.A.R.C. announces that effective January 01, 2025, a new broadcast contract has been agreed with the Woofferton short wave station. Contract negotiations were successful and the D.A.R.C. General Council approved the agreement and the budget on the 16th November 2024.

Radio D.A.R.C's program will be heard from England for the first time on Sunday, January 5, 2025, on the frequency of 9670 kHz (one of the previously used frequencies of ORS). 125 kW transmission power will be used into a 4 over 4 curtain antenna facing 105 degrees towards Germany. The ERP of this configuration is almost 4 million watts.

The familiar transmission on 6070 kHz in the 49m band will continue to be present as the Radio D.A.R.C. program will be transmitted again with 10 kW transmission power from "Channel292" near Ingolstadt in Bavaria (Channel-292 is owned and operated by Ham radio operator Rainer Ebling, DB8QC). The continuation of the national society's radio program on shortwave is thus secured for the time being.

Radio D.A.R.C. thank the employees of ORS GmbH & CO KG, in particular Ernst Vranka OE3EVA, for the many years of very benevolent and active support. We wish them all the best for their impending retirement.

-by Colin Butler [SOURCE]

2025 YOUTH ON THE AIR CAMP APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN

12/06/2024

Applications are now being accepted for campers interested in attending the 2025 Youth on the Air Camp. Licensed amateur radio operators, ages 15 through 25, who want to attend are encouraged to apply online at YouthOnTheAir.org. The camp is scheduled to take place June 15 - 20, 2025, in Thornton (Denver), Colorado and the Denver Radio Club, an ARRL Affiliated Club, is the local host.

The current application period is for the fifth camp for young amateur radio operators in North, Central, and South America. For the best chance at being selected, applications should be submitted by 2359Z on January 15, 2025. Campers will be selected by the working group and notified by February 1.

To encourage attendance from across the Americas, allocations for campers are being held open for various areas of North, Central, and South America. If countries do not use their allocation or should someone within an allocation decline acceptance, those positions will be filled from the remaining pool of applicants. As this will be an ongoing process, everyone will not receive notification of acceptance at the same time. Preference will be given to first-time attendees.

Applications will continue to be accepted through May 1 and up to 50 campers will be accepted. The application process is free, but a $100 USD deposit is required upon acceptance. Should a potential camper be unable to pay the $100 deposit, they may apply for a scholarship or waiver. Campers are also responsible for their own arrival and departure transportation to the camp location. Travel assistance may also be available, especially for those traveling from outside of the USA and Canada. Travel during camp events is provided.

For details about the camp, visit the camp web page at YouthOnTheAir.org or email Camp Director Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, at director@youthontheair.org.

Youth on the Air

Content ©ARRL, Inc.

To the Editor,

G'day from down under!

I love your excellent monthly publication—great reading! Thanks for making it available via QRZ.com. The hidden BB gun is at the lefthand side of the fireplace in the Xmas tree picture on page 9.

Seasons greetings to all W7DK Members.

73, Phil VK6GX
Gidgegannup, Australia

Thanks for the kind words from so far away, Phil! And thanks for correctly guessing the location of the hidden object! I've mailed some stickers to you—I look forward to seeing a picture of you holding them and will publish in a future issue of The Bark! ■ *-editor*

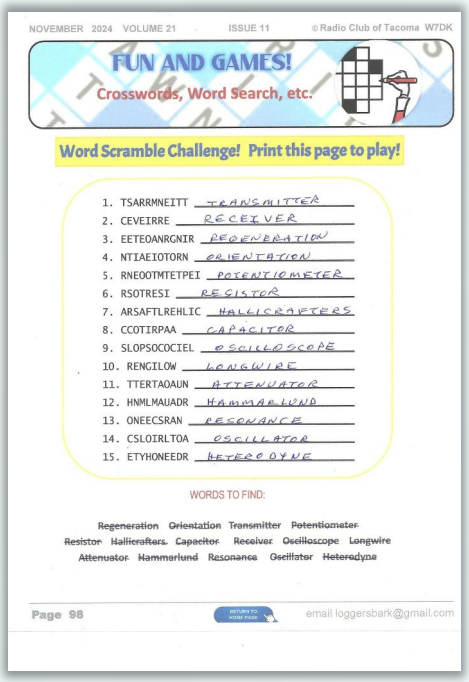
Dear Editor,

I love The Logger's Bark! I have attached my puzzle word unscramble that appeared in the November [2024] issue. I do enjoy working them and I hope that they stay.

You have a great bulletin publication that is full of good things. It's nice to see some of your members pictures also.

I'm really glad The Logger's Bark is available for all of us to read no matter where we are!

73 Joe KA1PPV
Stamford, Connecticut


NOVEMBER 2024 VOLUME 21 ISSUE 11 ©Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK

FUN AND GAMES!
Crosswords, Word Search, etc.

Word Scramble Challenge! Print this page to play!

1. TSARRMNEITT TRANSMITTER
2. CEVEIRRE RECEIVER
3. EETEOANRGNIR REGENERATION
4. NTIAEIOTORN ORIENTATION
5. RNEOOTMTETPEI POTENTIOMETER
6. RSOTRESI RESISTOR
7. ARSAFTLREHLIC HALLICRAFTERS
8. CCOTIRPAA CAPACITOR
9. SLOPSOCOCIEL OSCILLOSCOPE
10. RENGILOW LONGWIRE
11. TTERTAOAUN ATTENUATOR
12. HNMLMAUADR HAMMARLUND
13. ONEECSRAN RESONANCE
14. CSLOIRLTOA OSCILLATOR
15. ETYHONEEDR HETERODYNE

WORDS TO FIND:

~~Regeneration~~ ~~Orientation~~ ~~Transmitter~~ ~~Potentiometer~~ ~~Resistor~~ ~~Hallicrafters~~ ~~Capacitor~~ ~~Receiver~~ ~~Oscilloscope~~ ~~Longwire~~ ~~Attenuator~~ ~~Hammarlund~~ ~~Resonance~~ ~~Oscillator~~ ~~Heterodyne~~

Page 98 email loggersbark@gmail.com

Click to see full size

Thanks so much, Joe, for writing in! You're actually the first reader to be so kind as to send in a completed word game challenge! That's pretty cool! I have some bumper stickers in the mail for you—when you get them, send me a picture and I'll publish it in an upcoming issue of The Logger's Bark! ■ *-editor*

From QRZ,

I would like my commonwealth state to have something like this, in Spanish for all to enjoy. This is the best example of what good *ham-ship* can do.

Anthony, WP4I
Humacao, Puerto Rico

Errata from Previous Issue

Apologies to the many readers who reported the "Mystery Elmer" column error… the Guest Elmer missed closely reading the "High SWR Guy's" email - who clearly was using the wrong formula to calculate his antenna length. While your editor fixed spelling and text issues, the content error went by due to the late date the piece came in (2.5 hours prior to publishing). But the issue was fixed as soon as possible, and big thanks to Stephen VA7STV, Head of Engineering at QRZ.com, and Randy WB7SPB, IT Manager of W7DK, I was able to promptly upload the corrected version. Hopefully no one had an antenna building disaster as a result!

■ *-editor*

W7DK LOGGER'S CERTIFICATE

Classic "first award" for Members

HAVE YOU APPLIED for your own W7DK Logger's Certificate?! It's FREE and it's EASY! All you have to do is work at least 10 members of the Radio Club of Tacoma, then send in your list of call signs worked, and BAM! We'll print out your certificate and get it to you toot sweet by US Mail.

There are no confirmations required—no logs to submit—and really no rules other than the call signs you submit must be members of the club. You may work them on HF, 2m FM, on FT8 or SSB or any other mode! In fact, one of the best ways to get your 10 contacts is to check into the weekly Tuesday Night Net on the 147.28 club repeater… every Tuesday at 7:30 PM.

This venerable award was first launched in 1957, using certificate paper printed by club member Dick Ryan, W7RGD using a donated printing setup.

As of the date of this publication, there have been almost 700 certificates issued, including a few reissues over the years to replace lost certificates.

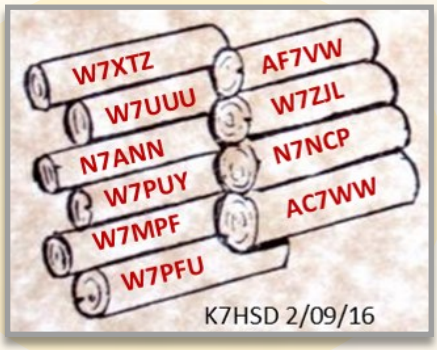
The original certificates were hand-lettered by long-time RCT member Barbara Osborne, W7UYL (SK 2022), and all of the records were kept in a series of recipe boxes still held by the club.

We still have a huge stash of this beautiful OFFICIAL logger's Certificate paper…. So if you do not already have yours, just shoot us an email with your list of call signs worked, and put "Logger's Certificate" in the subject line…

Send to loggersbark@gmail.com

Barbara Osborne W7UYL ca. 1955 at an RCT USO event

We also issue "Log Piles" for endorsements of each group of ten additional stations worked! So don't hesitate—get your Logger's Certificate or Log pile Endorsement *today!*



Wanna get yours? Send in those contacts!

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By W7UUU

Jim O'Hara W7VK
Anne N7ANN

This month for the first time we're featuring *two* W7DK club members in a single profile. I went through my numerous photos of Jim, and found the best one was actually taken with my wonderful wife Anne N7ANN! We often visit our mutual friend Jim O'Hara W7VK who lives not far from us in Burley. So this month is a "double featured member"! Jim and I met on a CW QSO a few years back, and since then we have done a fair number of "ham things" together, which ultimately led Jim to decide to join the Radio Club of Tacoma—in part because of *The Logger's Bark* Magazine and the content we publish every month. Anne has been a member of W7DK for over ten years, since March of 2014, and has served in several club capacities over the years including 2m Net Control, 2m Net Manager, W7DK QSL manager, and was our "Club Refreshments Committee" chair for five years from 2015 to 2020 (until Covid!) She's always there with a smiling face at all club events. And Jim, while being a pretty new member, is NOT new to ham radio. He's been a ham for many years, and has been something of a humanitarian in the world among the hearing impaired. He maintains a wonderful boatanchor-oriented shack in Burley, and is frequently at W7DK Saturday morning club get-togethers. If you've not met Jim, *you should*—he's always got a smile for anyone who comes his way and in every way is a "hams ham" despite not being as well known in the club like other members may be.

Thanks to Jim and Anne for being great members of our club!

MEMBER STORIES: HOW I GOT STARTED

Submitted by Jeff KB7QAG

HI—I'M JEFF KB7QAG AND THIS IS MY STORY!

When I started junior high, I made a new friend named Doug. We were in the same class all day during the school year and even took shop class together. One day, Doug invited me over to his house. When I arrived, I met his dad, who was in the military. In their basement, his dad had a collection of electronics and radios. I didn't know at the time that he was a ham radio operator (Glen Galati, KA7BOJ).

Jeff KB7QAG at a recent "Last Saturday" swap

When I turned 17, I met one of my sister's friends, and she invited Doug to our house for a dance. Later, I participated in show-and-tell at school (Stadium High) to share my hobbies. Doug's dad also took me to his electronics school, where he gave me a tour and showed me around.

One day, while walking through the hobby hall at the fair, I stopped by the local radio club's booth. There, I saw Doug's dad KA7BOJ with another ham. We talked, and he asked if I wanted to take a Novice class. I signed up in 1978, and that's how I got started in ham radio.

I got a ride up to the Radio Club of Tacoma clubhouse for the class. They gave me a tour of the building, including the upstairs museum and radio room. I started studying and learning Morse code. After weeks of preparation, I took the code and written tests but failed the first time. I kept studying and eventually passed. In 1981, I earned my Novice license with the call sign KA7MMW.

In 1985, I joined the Radio Club of Tacoma and told my mom about a local ham radio store. My first radio was a Galaxy GT-550, which I bought along with an antenna tuner and dummy load. I hooked it up to a 2-element CB base station beam antenna, but the tuner burned out because the radio had an input power of 500 watts or about 250 watts output, but the limit for Novices was 75 watts input, or about 40 watts output. So I smoked it!

In 1984, I took a class at Clover Park Technical College on mobile communications. The Washington State DVR paid for the course and the tools I picked up. While there, I repaired the burned-out tuner and set up a ham station with a Yaesu 901DM, a 2-meter mobile rig, and antennas. One of the antennas (a 2-way) had to be taken down, but we had five others.

In 1985, Glen (KA7BOJ) called me about a trade with Hank (W7UD). I traded a scanner for an Icom 22S with a control head and extra channels. A month later, I traded another receiver for a 4-band base antenna.

That same year, I started studying for my Technician license. I took the Technician class, attended code

MEMBER STORIES: HOW I GOT STARTED

Submitted by Jeff KB7QAG

practice sessions at the club, and passed both the code and written tests. Weeks later, my Technician license arrived. I set up a 15-meter dipole with the help of a friend and built a 5-element 2-meter beam. I also bought a Cushcraft A148-10S VHF antenna from Amateur Radio Supply in Seattle.

In July 1992, I moved to Gig Harbor, overlooking the bay. My brother-in-law had built the house in the fall of 1991. While on vacation, I renewed my license and changed my call sign to KB7QAG. My dad helped me set up my station, which included a 70cm 5-element antenna for SSB, a Cushcraft A148-10S (turned 90 degrees for SSB), and a 10-meter dipole.

In 2007, I moved back to Tacoma (my current Rosemount Circle home I share with my mom). I installed shelves in the closet and set up my station. My mom ordered a dual-band antenna, and we had an electrician run coax from the desk in the closet up to the attic for $300. I also put up a 10-meter dipole.

In 2012, I went to the club's flea market to look around and buy a few things. During the year, I studied for my General license. At the flea market, I took the test but ran into an issue because I didn't have my Novice license with me. The examiner looked up my call sign in an old call book and FCC records, then sent me an email confirming I had passed. Two days later, I officially earned my General license.

In 2018, I set up a 6-meter dipole in my closet due to HOA restrictions on outdoor antennas. I plan to build a halo-type antenna for 2-meter SSB and install it in the attic.

Wanna tell us YOUR story? Send it in!

Bands I Cover and Other Interests

Bands: 20, 15, 10 meters, 6 meters, 2 meters, 223 MHz

Activities: Field Day, hamfests, kit building, programming (computers), rag chewing, VHF weak signal

Operating: Amateur satellites, contests, CW, FM, SSB, grid squares, internet, logging programs, packet

Equipment: Computers, construction of equipment, filters, homebrewed equipment, integrated circuits, keyers, linear amplifiers, power supplies, repeaters, scanners, station accessories, test equipment, TNCs, transceivers

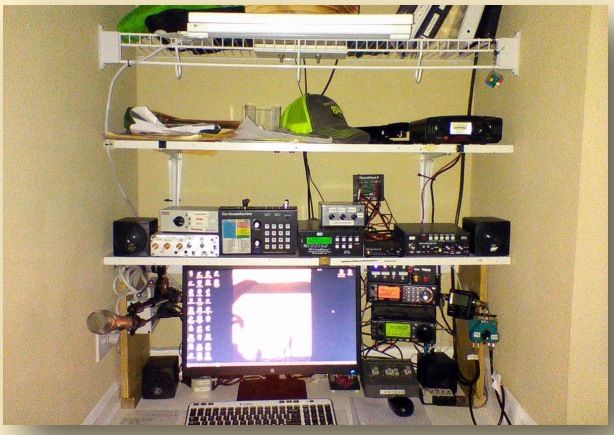
Antennas/Propagation: Antenna tuners, dipole antennas, duplexers, loop antennas, rotators, SWR measurement, wattmeters, Yagi antennas

Current Memberships: ARRL & The Pacific NorthWest VHF Society

Publications: QST (Online), *The Logger's Bark*

Thanks for reading this,

-Jeff KB7QAG



KB7QAG Shack 2021 (QRZ page image)

ASK ELMER!

Mystery Elmer

NOTE: Errata from the December issue*—the Mystery Elmer response from last month was incorrect. It came in very close to publication deadline. The file was corrected and the link updated both at QRZ.com and on the W7DK website. Sorry for any inconvenience. —editor*

Dear Mystery Elmer,

I like to follow the loggers bark on QRZ and I know you are a frequent member there. I thought that it would be fun if I could see what your mystery Elmers could do with a question I asked on QRZ a while back but just got a bunch of sorta snarky comments back.

I'm just a technician class and my call sign is kk*****. I plan to get my general soon and maybe my extra someday but I want to buy a HF radio that I can use now on ten meter but then when I get my general I can use on other bands as well. I mostly want to talk on SSB but I want to try ft8 and ft4 because I've heard lots of hams are using those modes now.

My budget isn't huge but I can spend around a thousand bux on the radio. I have an antenna already that I need to put up (it's a DX commander and does most of the HF bands).

What radios should I be looking at to get started first as a tech but that I can grow into as I expand my interest and get my general?

Thank you

-Wanting Radio Advice

Dear Wanting,

While there are ham transceivers that cover HF, VHF and UHF, I'm going to assume you already have the VHF and UHF angles covered. I also believe that QRP is not the way to start out on HF, although right now solar activity is such that you can do quite a lot with QRP, especially on 10M. However, when we are past the peak of Cycle 25 in a few years, you will make a lot more contacts with a 100W rig.

So I'm constraining my answer to 100W solutions that will get you on HF or HF+6M.

Unfortunately, $1000 all-in will probably not be quite enough for new equipment of this type. Practically any radio you choose will also require a power supply capable of 25A sustained current, typically costing $125-200. Plus there may be sales tax and shipping cost.

But in the range of $1000 for a new radio, your best choices are probably the Yaesu FT-710 and Icom IC-7300. These are modern SDR designs, and they have a waterfall display, a built-in antenna tuning unit (ATU) and will interface to your computer via a USB cable. The IC-7300 may be the most popular ham transceiver ever produced.

There is also the Icom IC-718, which is a bit less expensive; however, it doesn't cover 6m and lacks the ATU and waterfall display. These features are not essential, but for digital modes you would need additional hardware to interface this radio with your computer; and if you purchase that (as opposed to building it yourself), the combined cost will be about the same as that of the much more fully-featured FT-710 or IC-7300.

With pre-owned equipment you can easily come in under $1000; but of course, caveat emptor. Buying used

ASK ELMER!

Mystery Elmer

gear from a dealer like HRO is safe enough. Buying from eBay is for the experts and risk takers, and any purchase from a private party that involves shipping is a risk. Buying from a local ham that will let you check out the radio first is the ideal situation. Even then, guidance from an experienced local Elmer is highly advised.

Icom IC-7300—the most popular HF transceiver in ham radio history!

If you do look at equipment older than about 10 years, keep the computer interface issue in mind. As with the IC-718 mentioned above, many otherwise great older radios lack a USB port and will require additional computer interface hardware for digital mode operation. In the $500-800 range you can expect to find many models from the last 15 years or so. From Icom: IC-718, IC-7410 and IC-7300. From Kenwood: TS-570D and TS-590S. From Yaesu: FT-950 and FT-991A. And the TenTec Eagle 599 is also a nice radio.

But also keep in mind that older equipment may be expensive to repair. Some LED and LCD displays, in particular, have needed replacement, so observe whether they are bright and readable immediately upon power up, and that they stay that way after operating for a while.

If you can manage $1200 or so (or already have a power supply), I'd recommend a new Yaesu FT-710 or Icom IC-7300. You'll get a warranty and all the bells and whistles you could want as a new HF user. Best of luck to you; and consider learning to use CW, which would give you access, even before you get your General, to 80, 40 and 15M. It will also come in handy when you get around to exploring QRP operation.

-Mystery Elmer #1

Dear Mystery Elmer,

What is the point of using Morse code? It's not required anymore. It's ancient and old tech. Why do hams keep using it if they don't have to? I just don't get it. I'm glad I got my license after they FCC [sic] dropped it and glad its gone. But maybe you can explain the purpose of it cuz I sure don't get it.

-CW is Dumb

Dear CW,

One of the best aspects of ham radio these days is that there is something for everyone. Sure back when there was a Morse requirement for a license, some folks were very annoyed because they had to learn a skill they thought they would never use.

But now, using CW is a wonderful new thing for many hams. Thousands of hams have learned Morse since the requirement was dropped almost 20 years ago. It's because for many hams, using CW is one of the funnest things in amateur radio. No one is telling you to use it any more than telling you that you must use FT8. But just because other hams use and enjoy CW doesn't in any way impact what you do and enjoy in ham radio. There is plenty of fun stuff to go around in the hobby. And that's how I see it and a lot of other hams do as well.

-Mystery Elmer #2

THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

Always check the W7DK website for latest news

December	January, 2025	February

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	December	December	December	1	2 Thursday HF Night	3	4 Open House 10 to 2
2	5 10m Social Net	6 Slow Speed CW Net	7 Tuesday Nite Net	8 07:00pm Board meeting	9 Thursday HF Night	10	11 01:00pm General meeting ... Open House 10 to 2
3	12 10m Social Net	13 Slow Speed CW Net	14 07:00pm VE License Exam ... Tuesday Nite Net	15	16 Thursday HF Night	17	18 Open House 10 to 2
4	19 10m Social Net	20 Slow Speed CW Net	21 Tuesday Nite Net	22	23 Thursday HF Night	24	25 Hotdogs & mini-Swap
5	26 10m Social Net	27 Slow Speed CW Net	28 Tuesday Nite Net	29	30 Thursday HF Night	31	February

Recurring Special Contests All Categories ...

Did you know?

The original Roman calendar, said to have been invented by the first king of Rome, had 10 months. It started with March, which may seem kind of strange to us now. Later, Roman ruler Numa Pompilius added January at the beginning and February at the end of the calendar. Eventually February was moved between January and March.

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com

BUILD A 10M BEACON!

10-METER AMATEUR RADIO CW PROPAGATION beacons have been around for a very long time—practically back to the time hams were allocated the spectrum on October 4, 1927 during the International Radiotelegraph Conference held in Washington, D.C.

Early on, hams knew the band could be open or closed on the whims of the sunspot cycle, and often in unpredictable ways. Operators would manually send test messages on the band, hoping for a response from a distant place to find out where the band might be open to. These short QSOs were the earliest attempt at "propagation beacons".

Post WWII, amateur operators started putting more effort into beacon experiments, as an aid to the ham community to maximize their operating time on the band when it might be open.

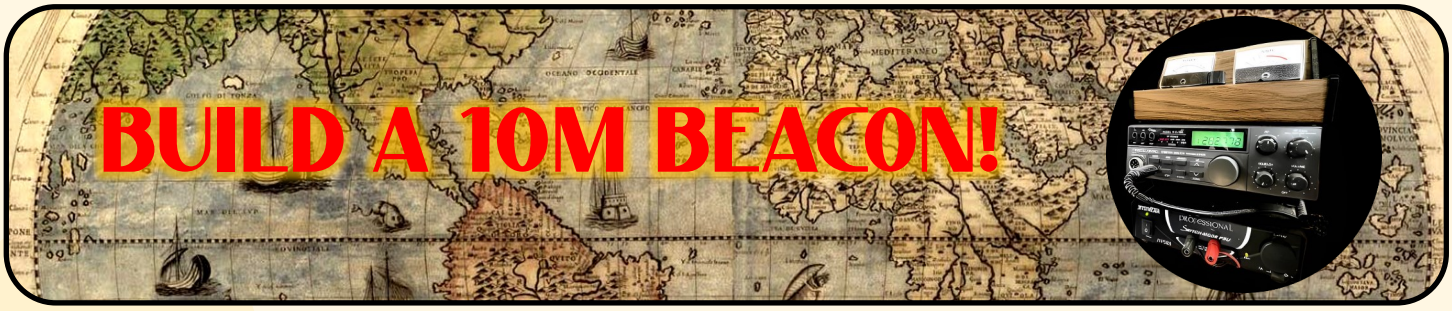
Fast forward to the 1990s when the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) began coordinating beacons formally, assigning frequencies to operators, and helping to establish networks of amateur-run fully automated beacons on a global basis. The frequency range allocated for this purpose is what it is today: 28.200 to 28.300, CW only.

Hams around the world began requesting frequency allocations from the IARU in their respective regions, and started putting 24/7 10-meter CW beacons on the air. The idea is to run a low-power CW signal (1 to 5 watts is typical) 24 hours a day into a preferably omni-directional antenna, to allow hams in distant locations to determine where the band might be open by copying the beacon and its grid square to see where it's coming from in the world.

The W7UUU/B beacon—28.2778 coordinated frequency HTX-100 transceiver with power supply & meter

The FCC allocation of the band segment for beacons calls for CW speeds not to exceed 20 WPM, and customarily the automated beacon keyers used are set to send the universal ham radio CW test signal, the letter "V". This is repeated 3 times, then the call sign of the operator with the addition of "/B" to denote "Beacon", and finally the 4-character Maidenhead Grid Square locator of the transmitter.

Are 10m CW beacons still relevant? Yes! They certainly are. Sure there are lots of other ways to determine if the band is open—any band for that matter. Space weather sites with propagation estimates, ionosonde survey sites that



display raw "band scan" data, the Reverse Beacon Network and other such sites, and even the FT8 waterfall on your radio running WSJT-X.

But none of these other means of determining band conditions truly *engage* the listener. There is a very long tradition of "SWL beacon listeners" who spend hours scanning from 28.200 to 28.300 trying to pull in as many CW beacons as they are able. For many hams and SWL listeners, it can be a lot of fun1

Copying beacons is also a great way to work on basic CW skills, because the format is fairly rigid in structure but the data load despite, being minimal, is a fun way to help build up Morse skills. And the FCC-mandated speed limit of 20 WPM helps newer ops get their speed up with signals that aren't as challenging as when trying to copy a fast contest exchange.

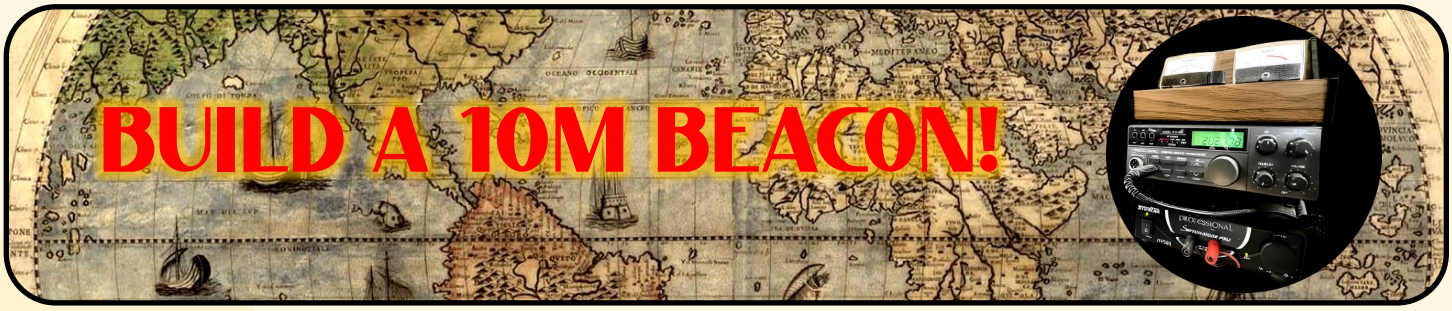
Another HTX-100 I use in the main shack for fun on 10m SSB and CW—it's a decent little rig!

As a beacon owner/operator, there's a lot of fun to be had as well. There's nothing like getting a reception report from some far exotic location reporting your puny little 1 or 2 watt signal has been copied thousands of miles away! My own beacon, W7UUU/B, on the IARU-coordinate frequency of 28.2778, has been received and reported from stations all over the US, Australia, New Zealand, Greenland, Europe, and Asia! It's a lot of fun receiving SWL QSL cards and email reports from distant lands.

So how do you assemble a 10-meter beacon? It's actually very straightforward. There are merely three main components: a suitable transmitter, a programmable keyer with "beacon mode" to allow for 24/7 repeated messages, and a suitable omnidirectional antenna. A simple ground plane is all that's required.

Just about any HF transceiver can be put into action as a 10m beacon. But obviously, you won't likely want to use your main rig for this purpose (although many hams have done just that—using their main station radio for a 10m beacon when it's not in use for other activities).

Most beacons however are based on simple dedicated 10m transceivers. There are a number to choose from—some current, some from the past. And of course, homebrewing a 10m CW-only transmitter isn't a huge task (See QST Magazine, March 2000, page 43—sorry but this link is ARRL members only).



But for the purpose and scope of this article, I will focus on perhaps the *most popular* choice for beacon use for many years, the Radio Shack HTX-100 10m transceiver.

Obviously, for any beacon project, a transceiver is not necessary, since you'll only be transmitting. So if you happen to find an otherwise suitable HTX-100 that perhaps has a non-functioning receiver, that would be just fine. The one I've been using since March of 2013 has a slightly-failing display, with black splotches in the corners. It's a common problem with old HTX-100 transceivers but doesn't affect operation as long as you can read the display.

Don't be tempted by the sister radio to the HTX-100, the HTX-10! That model offers FM and SSB operation instead of CW and SSB. Of course, you could modify it to operate CW or possibly use MCW with a pure sine wave into the mic input. But it's not ideal. HTX-100s are still very plentiful and turn up all the time on QRZ, eBay, QTH, etc.

The next key component is the keyer. Any keyer that has a "Beacon Mode" will work fine. There have been many sold over the years that will work—some simple (K1EL K16), some more complex (AEA MorseMatic & similar). There are often suitable keyers being sold for reasonable prices on eBay as well. For a beacon, simple is just fine. It's a "set and forget" sort of thing, in that you won't ever have a need to change any settings once it's set up and operating. Beacon mode means that your canned message will replay endlessly, usually with a 20 to 30 second delay.

K1EL K16 Keyer at W7UUU/B

I chose the simple-but-powerful K1EL K16 EXT keyer [LINK]. The deceptively simple 8-pin DIP microcontroller it uses offers a vast array of functions, and could easily be configured to be a station keyer (which many hams have done). But at the very reasonable selling price of the K16, it's a great way to get your beacon keyer set up and operating for very little expense.

The last component is the antenna. And for any beacon project, omnidirectional is always best, for the simple reason that you want your signal heard in as many directions as possible. So generally, this means you will want a vertical antenna. It's really easy to put together a 10-meter vertical, since the driven element is only just over 8 feet in length. You will want to provide at least one equal-length radial, and two or three would be even better.

For my beacon, I used an 8' 3" x 1/2" copper pipe I happened to have on hand, mounted on an 8-foot 2x4 stud using ceramic standoff insulators. But that's just because I had the parts and pieces on hand. Any simple design for a 10m vertical should work just fine. In a pinch, you could just string a basic horizontal dipole but you won't quite have the ideal omnidirectional coverage that a beacon calls

BUILD A 10M BEACON!

for. My vertical is installed about 20 feet high, on the east end of my pole barn (woodshop) with a metal roof. I have two 8' radials, and the grounded roof also aids in providing a solid counterpoise.

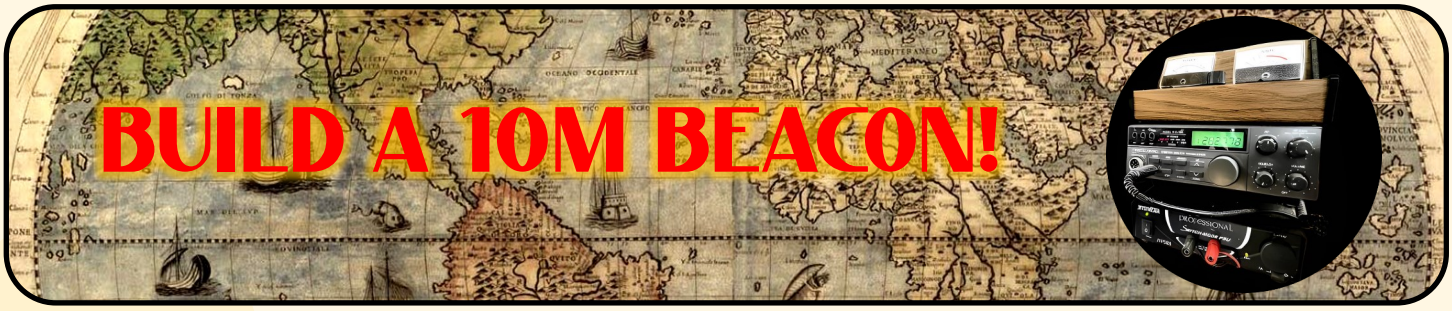
So what frequency do you use for your beacon? All 10m beacons must be between 28.200 and 28.300, CW only, with a speed no higher than 20 WPM. Determining this frequency is a ***very*** critical step and should not be left to chance or a random guess. HF beacons are actually controlled by the IARU—International Amateur Radio Union. For us in the United States, in Region 2 of the IARU organization, the current HF Beacon Coordinator is Jerry Moyer, AC5JM. You can find his contact information at THIS LINK. What you will need to do is reach out to Jerry to request a frequency. He will then review all of the beacons currently on the air in your area, and determine a frequency that is least likely to interfere with another beacon in the same geographical location. Frequencies are usually assigned in a full 4-digit format, down to the tens of Hertz.

1/4-Wave beacon vertical at W7UUU/B at 18' on the East eaves of the metal-roof pole barn

For example, my assigned frequency is 28.2778. The HTX-100 has tuning resolution sufficient to dial that frequency in perfectly, which is another reason it's a good choice. Some 10-meter transceivers lack the 4th digit of precision and would not be as good a choice for your transmitter. Please don't just pick any old frequency and run with it. That's considered a "rogue beacon" and is highly frowned upon.

Power output is an important factor as well. To be effective, a beacon really needs to be fairly low power. 1 to 3 watts is considered ideal. 5 watts would be the maximum I would consider. The reason for this is simple: when the 10-meter band is marginal, a powerful beacon (25 to 100 watts) would be very misleading for listeners, with what amounts to being a blasting QRO signal that defeats the purpose.

The HTX-100 has a low power setting (achieved by pulling out on the RF-Gain knob) of 5 watts (down from the "high power" level which is 25 watts. But



internally, there is a very easy adjustment to set the "Low Power" level down to about one watt. See ***Figure 1*** and note VR6, the PCB mounted potentiometer labeled "Low Power". You will need to use an accurate wattmeter into a dummy load to adjust the power. I currently have mine set for 1 watt output but during sunspot lows, I run it up to 3 watts output.

The last piece of the puzzle is easy: what to send! If you've ever listened to a 10m beacon signal, you will know they are generally all the same. The basic format is this:

V V V DE W7UUU/B CN87

The letter "V" in the amateur radio CW tradition is the equivalent of saying "Test". That's the basic line of CW text that would be sent, followed by a pause of anywhere from 10 to 30 seconds (I use 15 for mine), and repeat. The CN87 part is simply your own Maidenhead Grid Square designator (the 4-character version is more than adequate for an HF beacon).

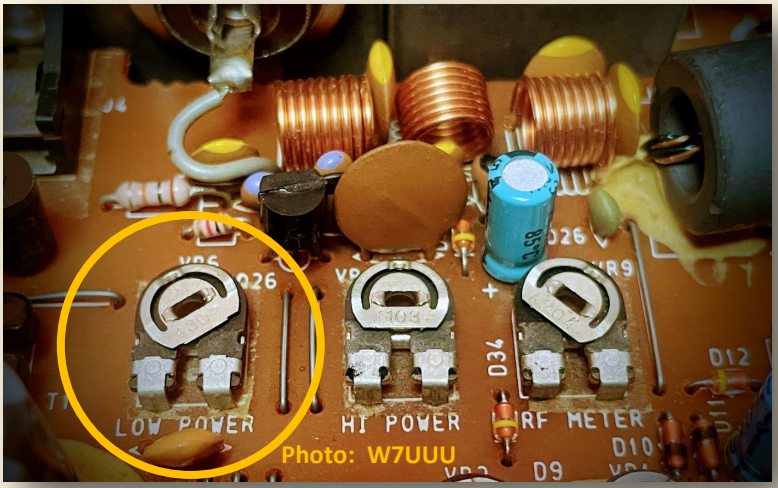


***Figure 1**: PC board inside the HTX-100 showing the location of the "Low Power" adjustment potentiometer. Adjust for 1 to 3 watts output using an accurate external power meter into a dummy load.*

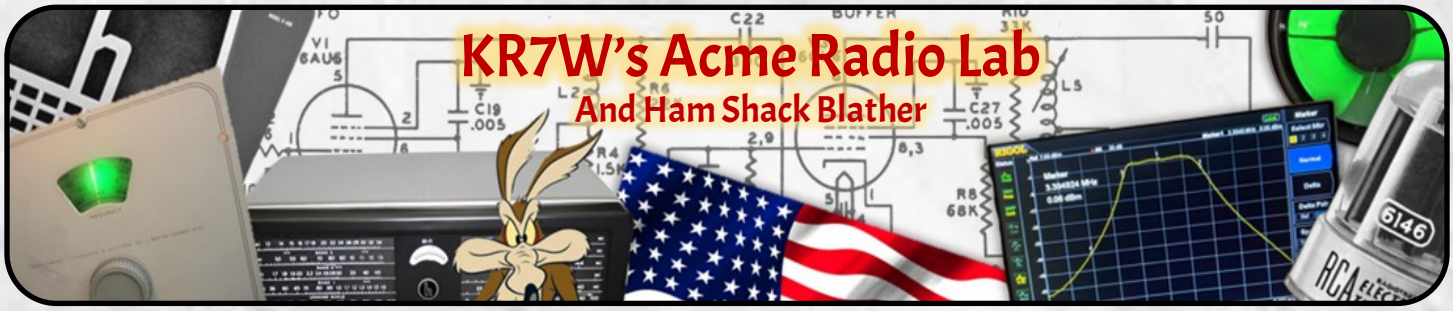
There are some more sophisticated setups out there—beacons that vary the power level over the course of sending the text, reflecting 5 watts, then 3 watts, then 1 watt, ending with 1/2 watt by triggering power changes in the radio, and simultaneously sending the power level in Morse.

But for most hams, the basic beacon as described in this article should be more than adequate.

So what's in it for you? Confirmations and signal reports from around the country and the world! There's a real thrill to getting an email or QSL with a signal report of your beacon from far away. I've received reports from all over the world—Australia, New Zealand, Greenland, Spain, Holland, and many other countries, as well as over 30 US states since W7UUU/B first went live in March, 2013.

If you decide to put a beacon on the air, please shoot me an email when it goes live and I will publish your frequency and call here in *The Bark*!

-Dave W7UUU

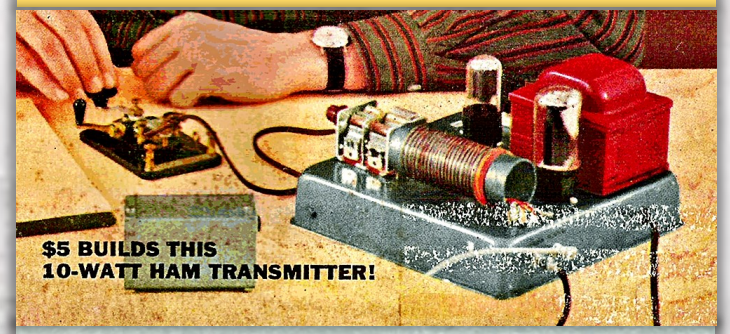


Factoid of small significance—
I learned in 1963 as a newly passed Novice, that Dah-dit-dah-dit-dah is the obscure Morse pro-sign that means "Attention". Letters K and A are sent attached... KA

Factoid that's not so obscure—
Dah-dit-dit-dit-dah is one of the first pro-signs learned by morse ops—it's a break in speech before a new thought. But most ops don't know it's also an "equal sign"... BT

Build...

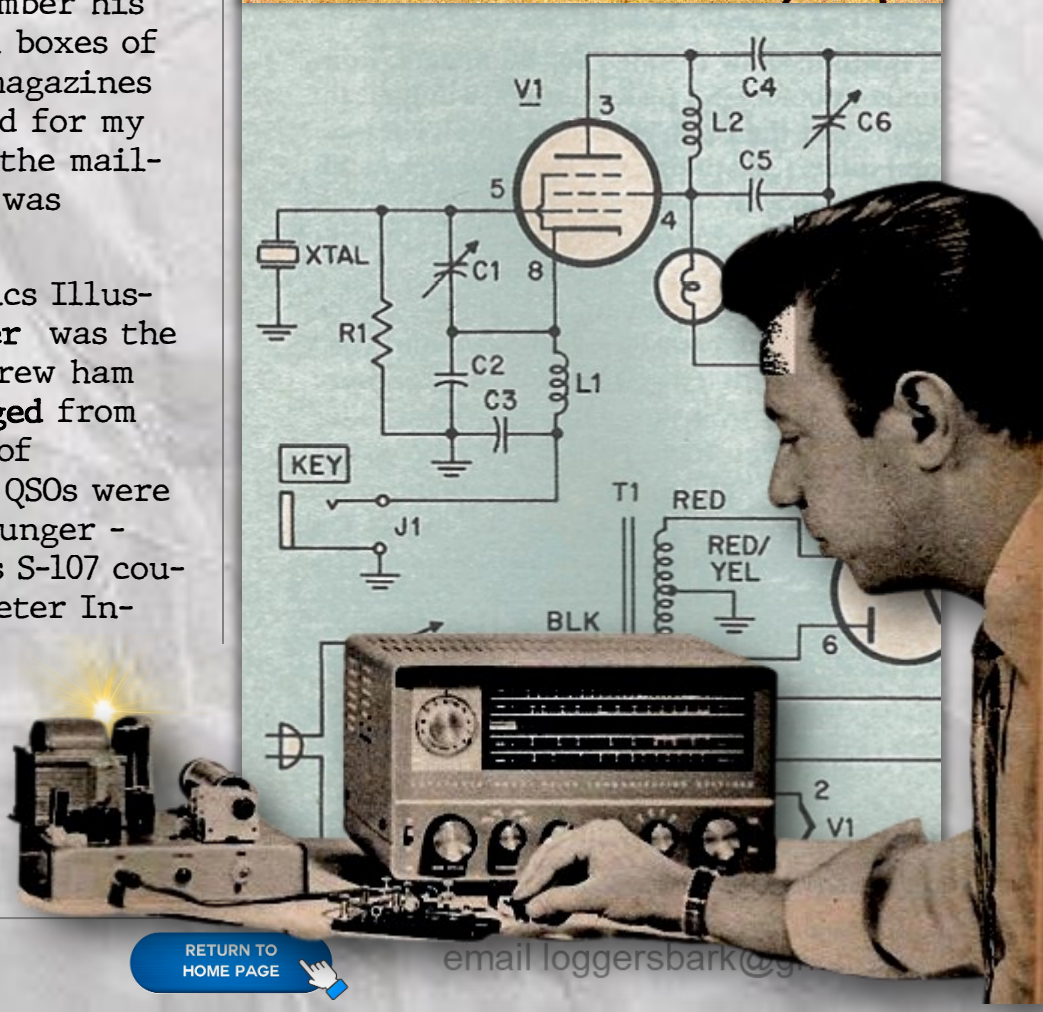
THE SCROUNGER...



In 1963, as a newly passed Novice exam Ham, my Elmer across the street, Mr. Verle Eagan, (can't remember his call sign) provided me with boxes of QST and other electronics magazines to gander at whilst I waited for my "ticket" to be delivered by the mail-man. A few months later, I was WN7BDJ.

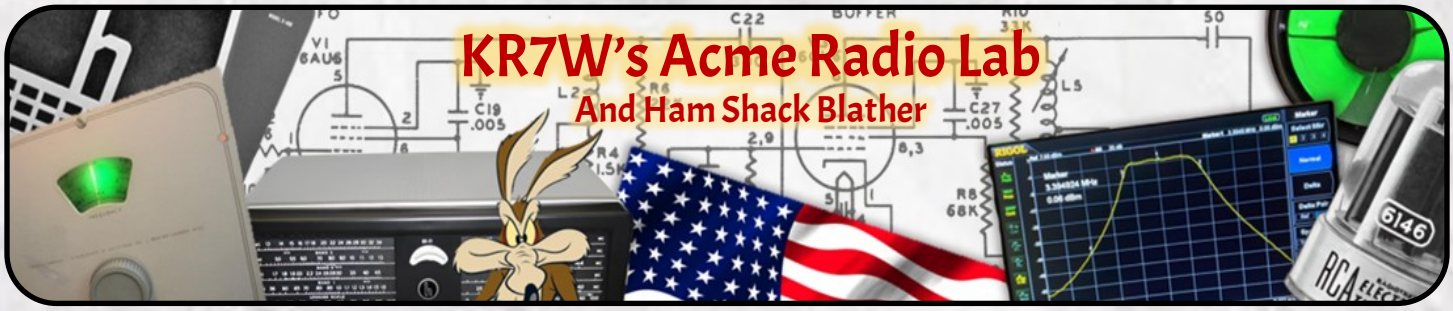
This article from Electronics Illustrated called **The Scrounger** was the impetus for my first homebrew ham project. Parts were **scrounged** from Mr. Eagan's vast collection of stuff. Many WN7BDJ Novice QSOs were made with my 40 Meter Scrounger - paired with a Hallicrafters S-107 coupled to a short height 40 Meter Inverted Vee antenna. My mother wasn't happy that I ruined one of her aluminum cake pans for my ham set.

-Ricky KR7W

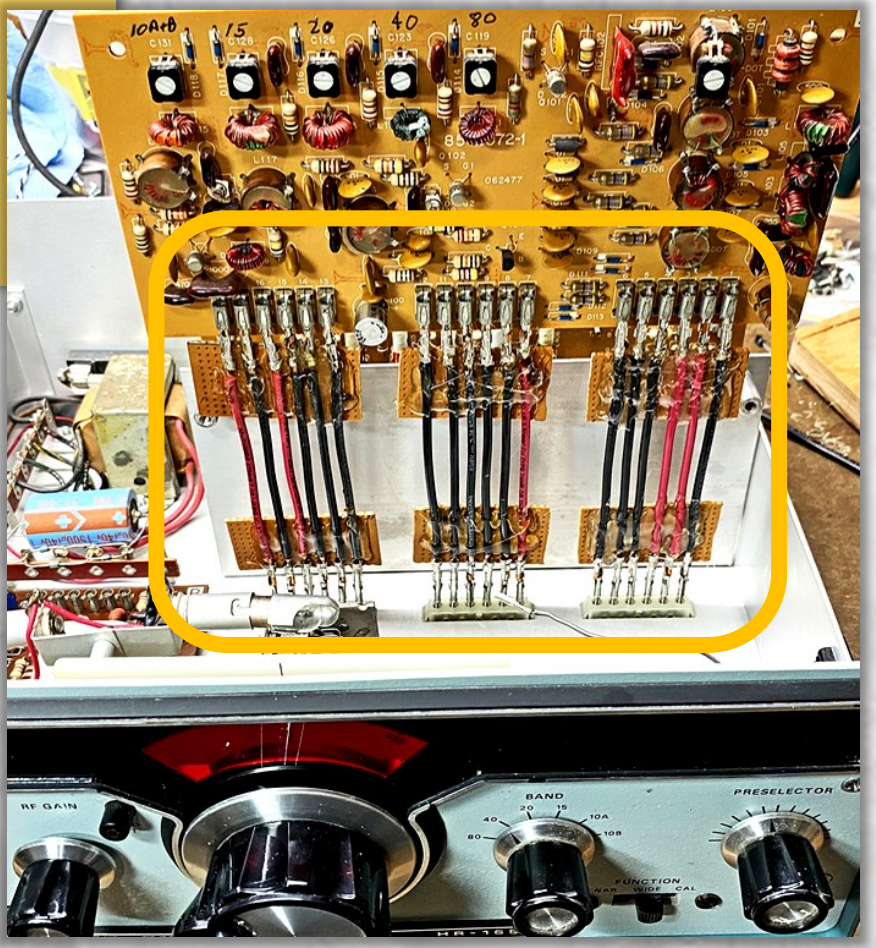


RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@g



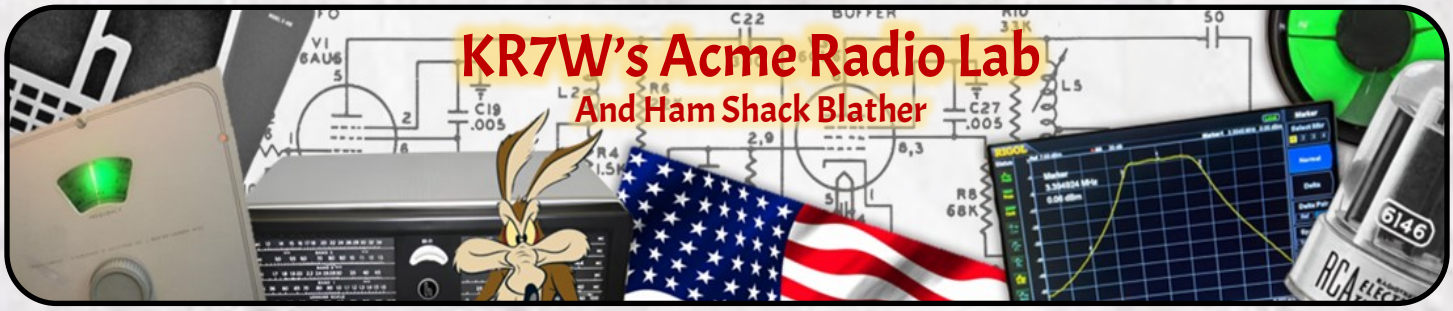
You did read the last page, right? So you know what this bit of Morse Code means !



I recently acquired a set of (mid 1970s) Heathkit Twins- HR-1680 receiver and HX-1681 transmitter. (BTW, the HX-1681 uses a HP-23). These radios seem to have a small cult following within the Heathkit collectors-restorer hams. I drank the Kool-Aid, am now a cult member.

I've been testing the HR-1680 and it doesn't seem to be receiving well. It lacks sensitivity. In order to troubleshoot the 3 prominent plug in circuit boards, I need the extenders to provide access to the components. eBay has a $65 + shipping solution. "Heathkit Extender Board HR-1680 Rx HX-1681 Tx | eBay". However, the Heathkit Manual tells how to build my own, using extra parts provided with the kit. I wanted 'cheaper' and the DIY experience- so searching at Heathkit-Radios@groups.io | Home provided info for the Molex Pins and Sockets that are needed to emulate Heathkit's DIY version. See: Re: Question about printed circuit cards connectors for SB-104 . $14+ shipping later, I ended up with this version built with Mouser provided Molex connectors. Plus 18 pieces of #12 solid wire, 6 pieces of thru-hole project board, and generous hot glue application which of course resulted in burnt fingers and the ACME-approved solution you see in the photo above.

-Ricky KR7W

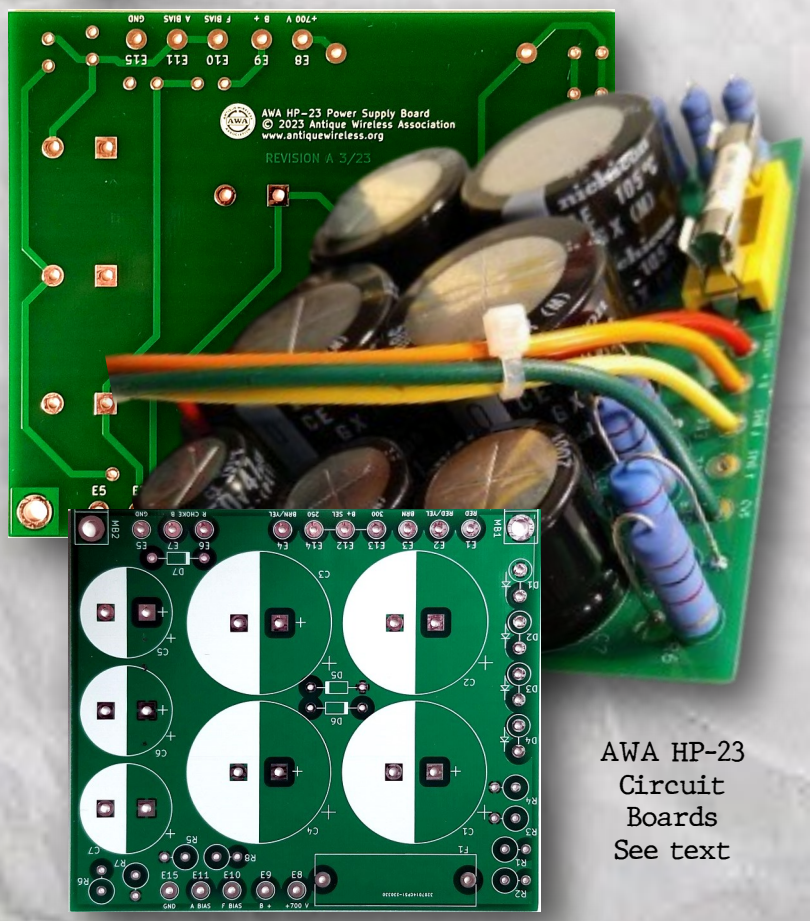


By now you should surely know this pro-sign...
I'm not explaining it again !

Heathkit HP-23 Power Supply
Photo: Tigerfire.ca

Over the last 2 years, I've been acquiring and attempting to restore some of the mid 60s to early 70s, 2 tone green Heathkit ham radios. My vacuum tube HW-22, HW-23, and HW-101 radios all use one of the 4 versions of the very popular Heathkit HP-23 High Voltage Power Supplies. HP-23s that have been sitting around in a garage or basement for 60 plus years will need to have the high voltage capacitors replaced. The folks at Antique Wireless Association provide a Printed Circuit Board solution for the more advanced builder-restorer. See pix right »

I say 'more advanced' because you only receive the $20 PCB. You must order the parts from another electronics parts source like DigiKey or Mouser. Part numbers are provided with the PCB. There are also more PCBs for DIY projects to assist with the old radio restorers hobby.
-Ricky KR7W



AWA HP-23 Circuit Boards See text

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

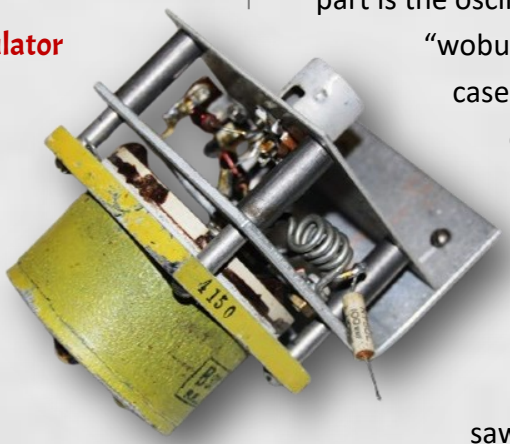
email loggersbark@gmail.com

MYSTERIOUS PART!

W7UUU

THE OBJECT FEATURED IN THIS ARTICLE is something most readers will probably have no clue what it might be. Maybe a motor of some sort? Or possibly a transducer?

This odd little device is called a Wobulator and is a bit of both of those concepts: a motor (coil and magnet causing motion) and a transducer (turning one sort of energy into another). And yes, that's really its name—Wobulator! No amount of research turned up which manufacturer *first* coined that term, but it was used by a number of electronics firms beginning in the 1930s all the way into the 1970s, when a much better technology emerged to replace the function of a Wobulator.



Top: Wobulator as removed, showing oscillator components
Bottom: As seen from behind, as it would be seen if mounted

Photos: W7UUU

OK—so what exactly IS a Wobulator?
In its simplest terms, it's an early alignment and RF testing tool for working on radios and TV sets. The name derives from its "wobbling" action—a transducer not too different from a loudspeaker is fed a sweeping frequency, causing movement of a shaft or control surface, that then modulates a variable capacitor or variable inductor to produce a "sweep signal" at RF frequencies or replicate a desired waveform of any type.

In the photos on this page, the transducer part of the device (the actual Wobulator) is housed in the yellow steel case. The circuit seen in the aluminum part is the oscillator that is being fed the "wobulations" of the transducer. In the case of this specific one, a tiny variable capacitor was fed the motion from the moving diaphragm of the Wobulator mechanism.

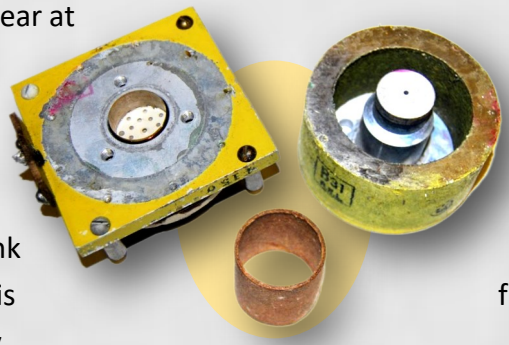
The voice coil of the Wobulator could be fed any number of waveform types—sinusoidal, saw-tooth, and square waves, which would then modulate a tuning element in a circuit to manipulate a much higher frequency in the same exact pattern. In other words, it was very much a "frequency converter" in the sense that the voice coil could be fed with audio waveforms to move the voice coil, and the diaphragm that the coil acted upon would then modulate RF components in identical waveforms, but at much higher frequencies. In a sense, it could be considered to be a pantograph of wave forms! Feed in a low-frequency waveform and use that to identically modulate a much higher frequency via the mechanical union of the diaphragm and the oscillator circuit.

MYSTERIOUS PART!

W7UUU

As long as the voice coil signal was synchronized with the oscilloscope monitoring the much higher frequency RF output, the resulting HF waveform could be tracked perfectly. For their simplicity, Wobulators were in fact a very linear and accurate device and were used in some of the highest quality test gear of their time.

Wobulators can still be found in gear at hamfests and electronic surplus stores, most frequently in military surplus test gear from the 1960s. They are easy to spot. Refer to the photo below: the pink circle in the orange highlight box is the Wobulator. The vast majority have but two connections, to the internal voice-coil of the device.



Wobulator "Discombobulated" to show the simplicity of design—voice coil in frame (left), magnetic core (right) and phenolic sleeve to keep them from touching inside

This fact makes them easy to spot as well. Should you wish to experiment with your own Wobulator project, there are a fair number of DIY projects to be found with a few internet searches—most dealing with audio generation for musical special effects.

By the early 1970s, the state-of-the-art in electronic test gear design had advanced to where generating or replicating waveforms, no matter how complex, was getting simpler and cheaper all the time. And today, a $60 NanoVNA from eBay or Amazon can run circles around a $3000+ military test set from the Vietnam War era, with far more accuracy and repeatedly. But probably no match in terms of "cool factor"! -*Dave W7UUU*

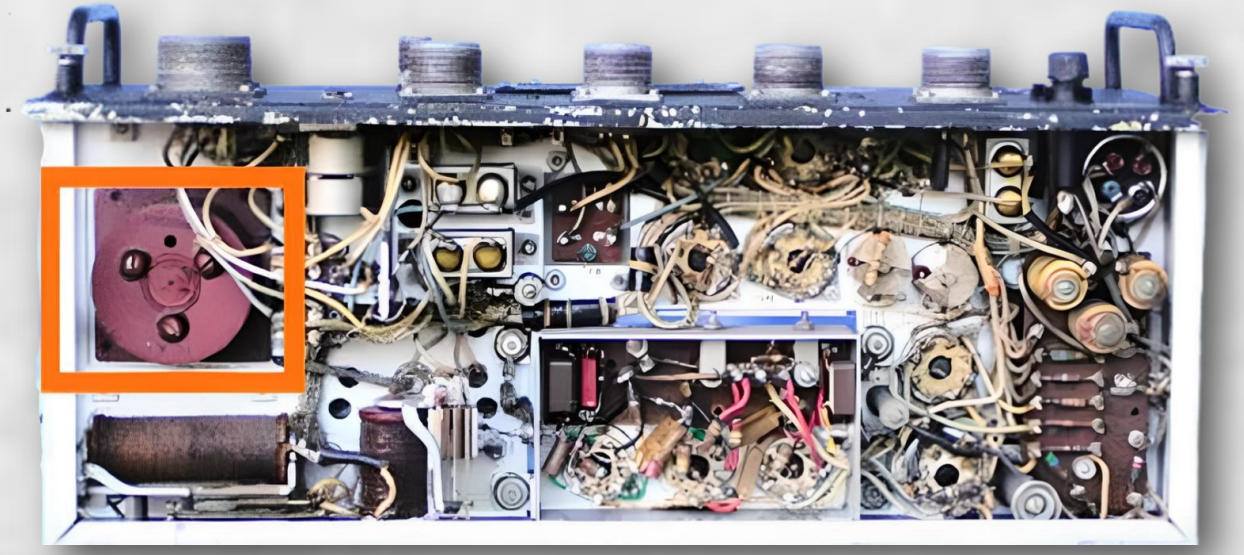


Photo of old military test instrument, with a Wobulator installed (orange highlight, pink Wobulator). Source of the photo isn't known—it's a photo I've had for some time but cannot trace it now.

IN 1966 MARGIE CHAVIS, K7AMJ (SK) put together a wonderful

50th Anniversary

scrapbook of W7DK club news clippings, notable events, photos, etc. This monthly column will run for just a few issues, and feature selected items from the scrapbook just for a glimpse into the club's past. Even those readers who are not a member will still find enjoyment in reading about historical ham radio tidbits from more than half a century ago.

–editor

SIXTY-ONE YEARS AGO THIS month, the *Tacoma News Tribune* ran a story about the Radio Club of Tacoma putting on a "Hide-and-Seek" event every month. Featured in the article are members Dwane K7KSZ and Priscilla K7NQR Lewis, showing off their radio direction finding gear. The goal of course was to pick a hidden public location for the transmitter team to hide out, while the "seekers", using direction antennas, drove all over town trying to triangulate and close in on their target.

Operation was typically done on 6-meter AM, which was very common back then. In the photo, the Lewis team are ready to roll in either capacity as hunter or hunted. The rig consists of a Hammarlund HQ-129X receiver (big box on the bottom) with a Globe Scout Deluxe transmitter. Those with a good eye will spot the FT-243 style crystal in the lower right front of the Scout.

The HQ-129X did not natively cover the 6-meter band, so somewhere in their setup would be a suitable converter. While not shown, the International FCV-2 or Ameco CN-50 would have been popular choices for the task at that time. *-Dave W7UUU*

Radiomen Prepare for Emergencies

Hams Playing Hide-and-Seek Games

1963

Click photo for full resolution image that can be zoomed to read the text

HOW HIDE-AND-SEEK HAS CHANGED!—It used to be that the feller who was "It" in the childhood game of Hide-and-Seek hid behind a tree or under the porch and all it took to find him was patience and curiosity. Not so in the defense-minded adult game today. Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne M. Lewis, well known local ham radio operators, show the elaborate equipment of their "mobile unit" family car and many like it which participate in the fortnightly experience of tracking down a hidden broadcasting voice somewhere in Tacoma.—News Tribune staff photo.

By ERNA BENCE

Every other Friday night a party of perfectly serious adult Tacomans gathers for a game of hide-and-seek and the winner is "It" for the next game.

Beneath the fun, there's a serious undertone to this game. Its purpose is to make Tacoma's men and women ham radio operators more efficient for their roles in any possible future emergency, when they might help save thousands of lives.

It took Mel Pruitt 40 minutes Friday evening to discover Dwayne Lewis in a gravel pit at South 35th and Cedar. Now Mel's hunting a good spot to hide Feb. 22. His fellow players will spend the next two weeks trying to pry it out of him, but he's wise to 'em.

Good hideaways are getting tougher and tougher to find, says Lewis. They have to be in the city, and on public property so private land owners won't get mad. After the winner yells "Ally-al-y-outs in free!" players keep arriving sometimes for hours.

Use Cars

Friday night 30 people in seven mobile units (specially-equipped family cars) participated, the last one hauling into the pit after two hours of circling up and down, back and forth, on the track of a voice. The pit was two miles from the starting point.

The hide-and-seekers are some of the 125 members of Radio Club of Tacoma, which is affiliated with ham operator groups all over the world. They gather at 8 p.m. at the clubhouse, 1249 S. Washington St., then fan out for the hunt.

Cars are equipped with directional finding loops, picking up the voice from the portable transmitter in the hideout. Each trip increases the players' efficiency with cross references and maps. The hidden broadcaster keeps up a running comment of comment or just pure drivel—anything to keep his voice on the air until the final car arrives.

Good Spot

Some hideaways are particularly rough to track odwn. "The Friday before Christmas," said Lewis, "I was It and I transmitted from the top of Hylebos bluff across the tideflats. The signal was tremendous all over the city. That one took a long time to narrow down." The last time Lewis served, he hid out in the garage used by Tacoma fireboat firemen, under the 11th Street Bridge. The bridge made complications.

Weather has never stopped the game so far, and there are more players each week. On one hunt Lewis ran out of gas and radioed in for help. Anybody can listen in who has a receiver which can tune in on a 6-meter band, Lewis said.

Tacoma's ham operators work closely with Civil Defense, maintaining the official relay station for CD at the Lewis home, South 46th and Asotin, on a 24-hour basis. It operates on 51 megacycles. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lewis are operators — K7KSZ and K7NQR, respectively, assigned by the FCC.

Everyone interested in amateur radio is invited to meetings the second Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. at the clubhouse.

Chances are that any car seen cruising local streets on Friday night and sporting a three-ring halo antenna is playing hide-and-seek.

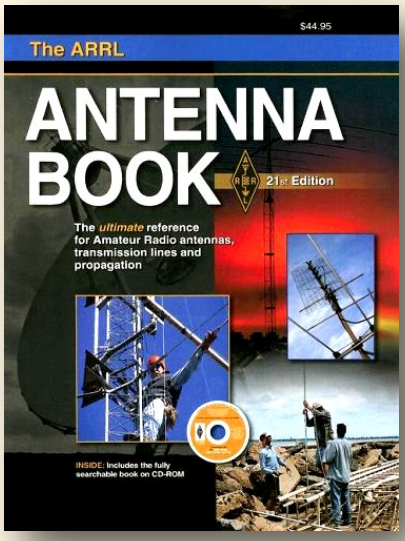
Tacoma News Tribune news article from January 1963, one of the many clippings in Margie Chavis' 50th Anniversary scrapbook. Special thanks to: Pete WA2CWA from QRZ for his assistance in ID'ing the rigs in question, with suggestions for possible converter choices

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com

ONE OF THE EASIEST WAYS TO SAVE MONEY in amateur radio is by building your own antennas when you get started. This is one area you can truly save money over "store-bought". You don't have to have been a ham for long to notice that commercially-made HF antennas can get expensive fast!

But the good news is it doesn't have to be that way. You don't have to break the bank to get started with an HF antenna. In fact, a homemade dipole for a single HF band can be one of the least expensive but most effective items in your new shack.


$44.95
The ARRL
ANTENNA BOOK
21st Edition
The ultimate reference for Amateur Radio antennas, transmission lines and propagation
INSIDE: Includes the fully searchable book on CD-ROM

ARRL Antenna Book

The dipole antenna is one of the best "first antennas" for a new ham to build. It's simple, very effective, and can be constructed with nothing more than some wire, a suitable length of coax, and a center insulator (which can even be homemade as well). The idea is very simple: you make two equal-length wire, cut to be resonant at the center of the band of interest, then attach them using a center insulator for a soldered connection to your coax into the shack. Then hang the antenna as high as you can between two trees or suitable poles and away you go.

As an example, take the 10-meter band: this is the band where most new hams start out as Technician class operators. To build a very basic dipole for this (or any other HF) band, the formula you use to find the total length of the antenna in feet is: 468 ÷ 28.400 MHz (the center of the 10-meter Tech SSB band segment that runs 28.300 to 28.500 MHz). This results in a total dipole length of 16' 6" meaning each side (or "leg") of the antenna would be 8 feet 3 inches. But it's best to make it longer to start, then trim it shorter if needed to bring the SWR to a level your transceiver can handle. In reality, most modern transceivers such as the very popular Icom IC-7300 should be able to easily find a suitable match even if your measurement is off by a little.

Or if you as a new Technician want to try the super popular FT8 mode, your transceiver should be able to handle the slight mismatch from 28.400 MHz to the FT8 frequency of 28.074.

The point of this article isn't so much about "how to design dipoles or Inverted Vee antennas" as it is to illustrate that you can build a very effective antenna such as what was just described for $20 or less—if you have a ham friend who can donate the coax (the most expensive part). But even if you have to purchase all the materials new, the entire cost of such a dipole for 10-meters can easily be well below that of even the cheapest of commercial antennas.

A great resource I recommend to all new hams wanting to get into building antennas is the ARRL Antenna Book (most any edition—antenna theory hasn't changed much in the last hundred years!). The Radio Club of Tacoma has a lending library for members where you can check out a copy for free. Or simply ask just about any member of the club on a Saturday Open House day if they might have a copy you can borrow. This book offers a wealth of information for new hams as well as seasoned hams alike. Your local ham club friends can be a wonderful source of many of the items you'll need, and how to work with them. Never be afraid to ask members of your club for advice when you're just getting started.

Ham radio doesn't need to be more expensive that it has to be—and starting with building your own antennas is a great way to lower your cost of getting started.

-Dave W7UUU

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

Walt WA7SDY (left) and Bob K7MXE talk tech in the classroom on Swapmeet Day

Tech Guru Ellen AI7FP (right) with her 3D printer for sale at a recent Swapmeet Day

Yours truly W7UUU—with a couple goodies from the free table… couldn't resist! Photo by Anne N7ANN

Chef Paul W7PFU always has a smile for the members!

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

Warren NG7G works through programming a radio in the classroom—December 12

David AC7KP hanging out in the classroom

Bill KK7WLP and his young son Will KK7WMS working with Will's new TYT-7900D radio

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

Nolan K7GBM is always one of the happiest faces in the clubhouse on any given Saturday open house!

Nelson K7CX came from Seattle to attend the Saturday open house on December 12th

Jule KK7VHG (who just passed her General! Congrats Julie!) with currently-studying hubby Brad

Randy WB4SPB checks out various headsets with the Collins 75A-4 receiver

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

W7DK

Randy WB4SPB gets the Hallicrafters HT-32 and SX-101 oiled up for Straight Key Night!

Paul W7PFU always has a smile for the crowd!

Photo: Al N7OMS

Al N7OMS proudly displays his Bigfoot Operator's etched-glass award mug as one of the W7F Ops in the recent Bigfoot Special Event run by W7DK!

Bob K7MXE presents to Dave W7UUU one of the Bigfoot Mugs he came across (thanks Bob!!)

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

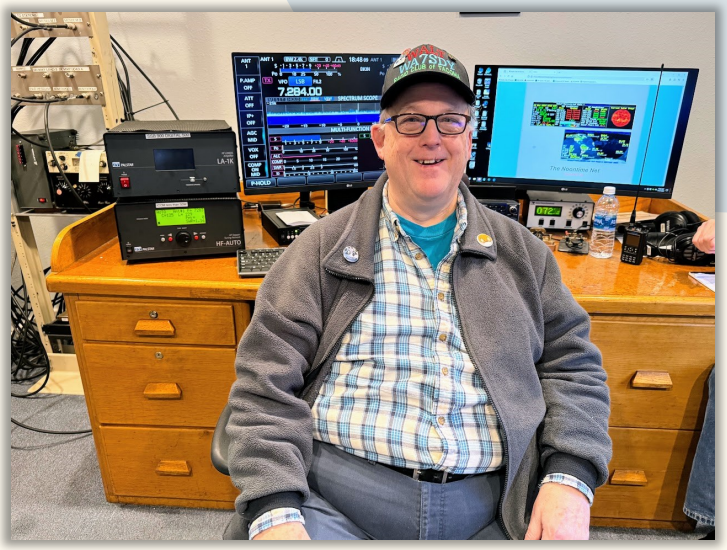
All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU except as noted

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

Joe Winkler KF7PXB makes CW contacts on his Elecraft rig from the classroom

Gary WG7X and Ellen AI7FP catch up on a Saturday in the HF room



Walt WA7SDY awaiting the Saturday session of the Noontime Net to fire up on 40m SSB

"The gang's all here" in the HF room: Walt WA7SDY, Gary WG7X, Ellen AI7FP, Mike W7XH and Mike W7MKE

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

W7DK

January Birthdays!!

Robert Cook	AB7TW
John Clarke	AC7WW
Stephen Morton	AD7AB
Michael Robinson	AD7TH
Lloyd Brooks	AG7CX
Ronald Hall	K6HSB
Erle Nelson	K7DKK
Dan Ransom	K7MM
Deanna Jenks	KA7DCX
Leonard Burstiner	KA7NWF
Morrie Pigott	KD7GUE
Tyren Bratvold	KG7ONU
Marvin Wheeler	KG7V
Brenda Thorne	KI7SDZ
Everett Chun	KI7UNQ
Dennis Nelbach	KJ7DDW
Norman Robinson	KJ7LSA
Andrew Hall	KK7CSV
Roy Prince	KK7ELP
Shirley Keen	KK7GZL
James Perron	KK7JUC
John Wells	KK7MTX
Brighton Benzien	KK7PQU
Norris Overly	KK7RHZ
Donald Leonard	N3WN
Wayne Pommer	N5WAP
Dave Hutchison	W0JKT
Jeffrey Isakson	W7JSJ
Lila Wheeler	W7OII
James Driskell	W7OWI
David Stark	W7TUK
Gary Hurnblad	WA7SH
Bruce Cranefield	WB7EC
Gary McAdams	WG7X

Wade W7ITL shows off his cool old school Sony Mavica digital camera that records to 1.44 mb floppy discs from the late 1990s!

"The Gang's All Here" in the clubhouse kitchen on December 21st

Photos by Dave W7UUU

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com

Y2K – 25 YEARS LATER

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS

THE COMPUTER CRASH OF THE MILLENNIUM!

JANUARY 1, 2000

THE DAY THE EARTH WILL STAND STILL!

ALL BANKS WILL FAIL!

FOOD SUPPLIES WILL BE DEPLETED!

ELECTRICITY WILL BE CUT OFF!

THE STOCK MARKET WILL CRASH!

VEHICLES USING COMPUTER CHIPS WILL STOP DEAD!

TELEPHONES WILL CEASE TO FUNCTION!

DOMINO EFFECT WILL CAUSE A WORLDWIDE DEPRESSION!

Weekly World News Cover–September 13, 1999

Y2K – 25 YEARS LATER

IF YOU WERE AROUND AND AWARE IN LATE 1999, you would have had to live under a rock to *not* hear of the "Y2K Bug" and the dire predictions that came with it!

As the 20th century drew to a close, the world held its breath, anticipating what was hyped as an impending technological catastrophe. The "Y2K bug" or as other news mongers dubbed it, the "Millenium Bug" was all over the news. A few sources I found tried to sound less dire, with the less urgent phrase, "The Year 2000 Problem". Regardless, the topic dominated headlines, dinner-table discussions, and around-the-water-cooler chats at work (including the office I worked in at the time) - warning of potential chaos as computer systems faced a glitch tied to their handling of dates.

Actual sticker placed on new computers sold at Best Buy in 1999 Photo: axiom.tech

As parodied in the splash page for this article by *The Weekly World News* (a parody 'zine that still exists today on the web)… the predictions were pretty insane—nothing short of the end of the world was prophesied in nearly-daily headlines across the globe, in all languages.

But why were the concerns so dire? What caused this phenomenon, and how did the world avert disaster?

The so-called "millennium bug" originated from a programming shortcut dating back to the early days of computing. To save memory, early programmers used two digits to represent years instead of four. For instance, "99" stood for 1999. While this saved valuable system resources, it also created a ticking "two digit time bomb": once the calendar flipped to 2000, many systems would interpret "00" as 1900. This miscalculation could *potentially* disrupt anything that relied on time-sensitive operations, from financial transactions to power grids—pretty much any system that used calendar dates that required the year in order to function.

As the year 2000 approached, fears started to spread about potentially cascading failures when systems reset to the turn of the *prior* century.

Typical fears: Would U.S. and global banking systems collapse, wiping out electronic transactions or reset your bank balance to what it would have been in the year 1900? Would commercial airplanes, reliant on precise navigation systems that involved using dates, suddenly fall from the sky? Dire predictions such as these and more, fueled a global race to identify and patch vulnerable systems—no matter how *ridiculous* some of the fears now seem in hindsight.

But it didn't all start in 1999—that's just when the masses first learned of this oddball situation looming in the future. By the mid-1990s, businesses and governments worldwide had quietly mobilized to confront the impending issue. *Billions* of dollars were poured into identifying and updating software systems. Programmers worked overtime, combing through legacy code and testing hardware by plugging in post-2000 dates to see what might break.

Despite the fact that most tested systems handled the problem just fine, "in an abundance of caution" no sys-

Y2K – 25 YEARS LATER

tem was left untested. And even with such extensive preparations, it would be virtually impossible to *guarantee* that every system had been patched or would be immune to the problem.

Planes, for instance, were grounded in some regions as a precaution on New Year's Eve despite no evidence of looming failure. Power companies ran simulation after simulation to ensure their grids would hold. Banks prepared for potential panic, ensuring physical cash reserves were available if ATMs malfunctioned. There were zillions of reports of folks closing out their bank accounts and hoarding cash at home in the belief the banks would fail. I even read one story of a man who took out a dozen credit cards and used them for their cash values on his misguided theory that the credit card systems would crash, and his debt would be erased at midnight New Year's Eve! I'm sure he had some pretty stiff regrets come January first, when all of the debt was still there, charging 30+% interest for all those cash advances!

Typical 1960s style master clock controller and Simplex clocks—millions are still in use to this day in schools around the country and elsewhere. There is nothing in a system like this that could have been affected by Y2K—it was merely a series of motors, relays, and solenoids and 100% analog. Yet as a service tech in 1998 and 1999, I spent vast amounts of time going from school to school and certifying such systems as Y2K Compliant at the request of the district administration! Crazy times.

The U.S. government took the threat so seriously that in 1998, it established the President's Council on Y2K Conversion, led by Deputy Director of Management for the President, John Koskinen, to coordinate national readiness efforts. The council encouraged personal preparedness, urging citizens to stockpile food and water as if preparing for a natural disaster.

> ***"...In February[1998], President Clinton established the Council on Year 2000 conversion to coordinate the federal government's efforts to increase awareness of the Y2K problem and encourage action in public and private sector organizations".***

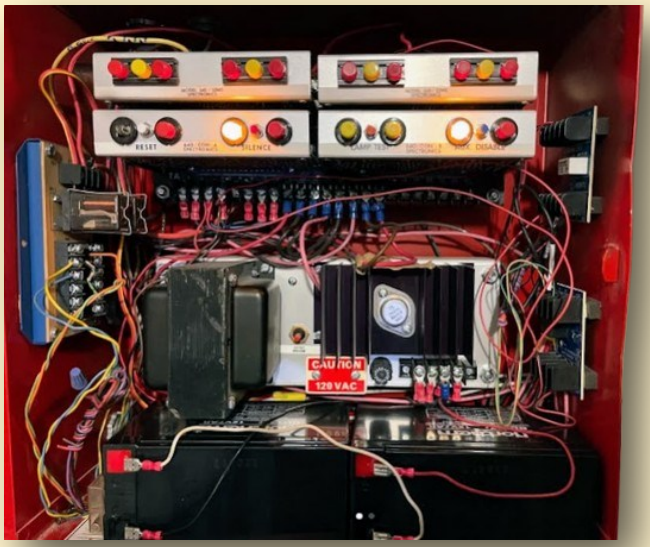
Throughout the late 1980s and all through the 90s, I worked for a Tacoma company called Sound Electronics as a low-voltage specialty-systems tech. Under the direction of the Presidential Council's Y2K push, public institutions were ordered to have all of their critical systems certified for "Y2K Compliance", and if found vulnerable, to be duly updated to prevent failure.

Beginning in Fall of 1998, with a significant push starting Summer of 1999, I was on a team who went from school to school, hospital to hospital, and into

Y2K – 25 YEARS LATER

government buildings of all types. We were contracted by hundreds of public institutions to certify their systems for compliance against "the bug".

It was truly absurd in many cases—"testing" and certifying 1950s-era 100% electro-mechanical self-correcting clock systems for schools and hospitals, that didn't even have chips in them, much less computers! We certified old fire alarm systems, school intercoms, PA systems, pocket pager systems, school sound systems, and care facility nurse-call systems—none of which had the smarts to know what *day* it was much less what *year*. But such was the level of paranoia by 1999, and for those of us in the field, weekly completing *hundreds* of forms stating "your System is fully Y2K Compliant" on these old non-computerized systems, the overtime was great! It was easy and fun work, and despite the absurdity of it all—we were viewed as "technological saviors" by the customers we visited to certify their systems. During my two years of testing, I never found a single system that would have failed in anything approaching a dangerous way once the calendar rolled over to the year 2000.



Analog fire alarm panels, such as this Spectronics model 640 system, were also 100% analog and utterly immune to any effects of Y2K yet we spent days in the field certifying them as Y2K compliant at the owners request and expense.

Amid this backdrop, amateur radio operators in many regions also played a role. Ham radio emergency organizations like ARES and RACES were tapped to provide on-call backup communications in case of widespread technological failure. Hams around the U.S. and the world conducted drills, setting up portable stations and simulating disaster scenarios. Many such training sessions were well-covered in QST and CQ magazines of the time. The message to the public of course was that ham radio offered a communications failsafe in an era when digital communication systems—especially cell phones—were deemed vulnerable.

For some, the Y2K insanity even became a gateway into the hobby! Michael Martens KB9VBR who makes and sells antennas for amateur use as KB9VBR Antennas, said:

> ***"back in '99 we were on the cusp of Y2K and we all thought the world was going to end. I was just getting prepared for doomsday".***

He is just one example of I'm sure a great many who in the fall of 1999 turned to ham radio "just in case".

[Were you one of them? Please click the email address at the bottom of the page and tell me *your* Y2K ham radio story!]

Ham radio's role wasn't purely theoretical. Local governments worked with amateur operators to plan for potential communication outages—sophisticated phone networks were indeed at risk of simply locking up, although that never really happened on any large scale.

But no one knew *for sure* so preparation was critical.

Ham operators ensured they could relay vital information if phone lines, satellites, or internet connections failed. The one small but visible outcome of all of this, was that the Y2K preparations reinforced in the public's mind the importance of amateur radio as a tool for emergency communication, a legacy that persists today for a segment of society that remembers the whole Y2K debacle.

So what happened when the clock finally struck midnight? As December 31, 1999, transitioned to January 1, 2000, the world watched anxiously. In the final days, Y2K monitoring centers were established, and tech teams were stationed at critical facilities, ready to act at the first sign of trouble. All of my fellow techs at Sound Electronics were ordered to keep our beepers on us at all times, and answer the phone no matter the hour, in case there would be an emergency call-out.

Then…*nothing* happened.
A *whole bunch* of nothing.

Planes didn't fall from the sky. Power grids hummed along as usual. Banks remained operational. School fire systems didn't go into alarm. Cash machines for the most part kept dishing out cash. In researching this article, I read that maybe 1% or fewer machines in the U.S. were reported to have failed.

Outside of that, the "millennium bug" largely failed to materialize, and by the first morning of the year 2000, the fears of catastrophe had dissipated.

But in all fairness, this calm wasn't *entirely* by chance. The *massive* global effort to patch systems had in fact worked. While there were isolated glitches—such as parking meters misreporting the date on parking tickets or minor errors in hospital systems and store receipts—*none* escalated into major crises. Those few systems that would have been triggered into unknown states or locked up had all been updated and otherwise patched to correct the date problem.

In hindsight, Y2K stands as a testament to proactive problem-solving on a global scale. And despite the often over-the-top sensationalistic headlines and reporting, Y2K *did* expose the fragility of early digital systems and laid the groundwork for more robust programming and chip manufacturing practices going forward. The event underscored the value of preparation, whether through high-tech solutions or putting in place backup systems. And this includes amateur radio—even though it wasn't used—this event at the turn of the millennium certainly helped breathe some new life into ham radio as an emergency backup communication technology. Sometimes these days, "EmComm" as it's called gets a bad rap on internet forums—but *had* cell phone and landline systems gone dead on January 1, 2000, hams *were* in fact in place around the world, ready to help as needed.

In the end, Y2K became less about disaster and more about the triumph of foresight and cooperation. It's a rare example of a "what if" scenario where humanity prepared for the worst and, in doing so, avoided it entirely.

This article is certified fully Y2K compliant for your safety! Thanks for reading.

-Dave W7UUU

MOST EVERY THURSDAY EVENING from 6PM until 9PM, the Radio Club of Tacoma opens the HF room for one-on-one training time. Saturdays are a great time to come see the clubhouse and socialize, but often it's tough to get "quality time" with the radios. This weekly event is open to all—members and non-members alike. There is always at least one Extra Class operator on hand with a solid knowledge of the Icom and Flex radios in use, as well as the antenna patch bay, amplifiers, and tuners. Even non-licensed "hams to be" can take a hand operating under the tutelage and watchful eye of an experienced "Elmer" on hand to show the ropes. Come on by any Thursday! ■ *-editor*

L>R: Paul N7OSS, David AC7KP, Gary WG7X, Dan KD7SV and Dave W7GEL—hanging out for HF Night December 12th—Photo by: Mike W7MKE

W7DK Icom IC-7610 Operating Position

Julie KK7VHG checks into the Christmas Train net, K8C, on 40m SSB on December 19th in the 7610 position.

Open House Reminder!

THIS IS JUST A WELCOMING & REMINDER that the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma Clubhouse holds an open house on most Saturdays of the year (click HERE for exclusions) from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There's always a nice group of members but ALL visitors interested in amateur radio are welcome to stop by! You do not have to be a member or even a ham to visit us. Please be sure to sign the Visitor's Logbook in the kitchen, say hello to your Clubhouse Host, have a cup of coffee and a donut (always a nice assortment on hand). You may wander the building—visiting the classroom, the downstairs "shack parlor" we call The Lou Room, and of course upstairs to see the main HF room and the W7OS Doc Spike Memorial museum—a living collection of vintage gear that regularly gets on the air.

The last Saturday of every month, we hold a mini flea market where members can sell their ham gear. But even non-members are eligible to dicker for deals and take home gear. And starting around 11:30, our club Chef Paul W7PFU serves up free chilidogs, or sometimes burgers or spaghetti at the chef's whim. We hope to see you stop by soon!

■ *-editor*

Mini-Swap Meet Monthly

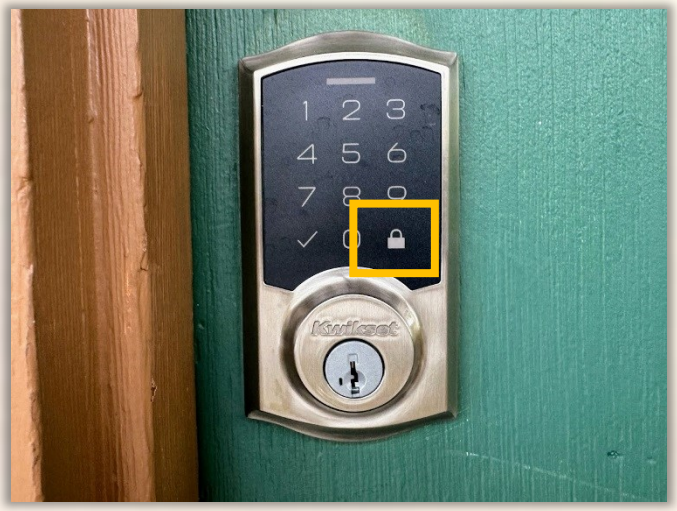
DO YOU HAVE EXCESS GEAR TO SELL? Members of The Radio Club of Tacoma have a little perk every month with our own mini Swapmeet held in the clubhouse on the last Saturday of each month. No charge for a table—just bring your wares and set up shop! Non-members and visitors are free to stop by and see if they can pick up bargains. The club also has gear donated regularly that is made available to visitors and members alike, available for purchase via donation. And of course, as mentioned in the Open House reminder, the club chef Paul W7PFU cooks up chilidogs or spaghetti (whatever suits his mood!) at no charge for guests. ■ *-editor*

How To Lock The Doors

AS WAS REPORTED in last month's Bark by our club Secretary, Gary WG7X, in recent months there have been reports of the clubhouse being found unattended and the doors not even locked! Obviously, this is not acceptable. It's the responsibility of the Club Hosts on Open House Day (Saturday) or those who have door and alarm codes on other days to make certain the building is secure when leaving.

But should you be in the position of being the "last one out", you can still LOCK THE DOOR even if you don't have the code or a key. Simply pull the door closed and push the "lock symbol". The battery-powered mechanism will then lock the door (you won't be able to get back in without the code!). This applies to both the front door and the back door. See photo below—note the "lock" button.

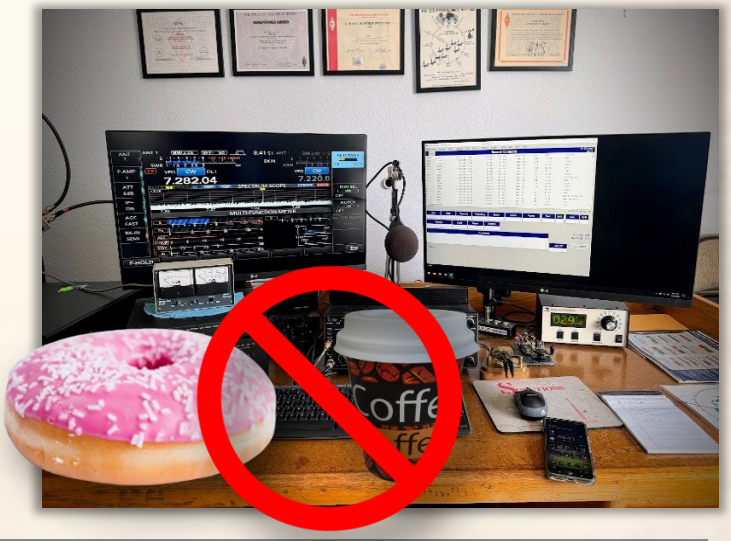
-Dave W7UUU



Help Keep The Clubhouse Clean

THIS IS JUST A GENTLE REMINDER that the W7DK Clubhouse is for all members to use and enjoy, and is a place to put our best foot forward as a club for visitors we welcome in almost every Saturday of the year.

Please be mindful of leaving trash, empty cans or bottles, food wrappers, McDonalds bags, and whatever else. Same holds for coffee cups… we frequently see cups left on classroom tables, the kitchen counters, at the Lou Room table, and wherever else. Please just make sure to "pick up after yourself". Also, remember that liquids and radios don't mix. Please don't take cans or cups of beverages into the HF room or the Museum—just water bottles with lids or closures of some sort. And no "sticky foods" like donuts! No one wants to reach for the tuning knob only to find your sticky donut residue on it!



A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS who attended the 2024 Holiday & Awards dinner at the Collins Grange Hall in Parkland, Washington. I truly think a wonderful time was had by all, and we had a great attendance.

It was so nice to see everyone today, and share good food, good company, and congratulate all those members of the club who worked so hard this past year to make the club what it is.

Last year's Doc Spike winner, Paul N7OSS presents the 2024 Doc Spike Inspiration award to Manny AD7MA

And of course, the top honor every year, called the Doc Spike Inspirational Award, named in honor of one of the founding members of the Radio Club of Tacoma, Dr. Clifford J "Doc" Spike, W7OS, is awarded to that one member who stood out over all others. He was an inspiration, and his accomplishments must speak for themselves.

This year's winner of this coveted and respected award, The Doc Spike Inspirational award, went to Manny Adonis AD7MA. Manny joined the club in July of 2022, and since late-2023 has headed up the Radio Club of Tacoma Planning committee. He is also one of the Saturday Clubhouse hosts. Congratulations Manny for your many accomplishments, hard work and dedication to the Radio Club of Tacoma. And thanks to his son Nic KK7HMZ for once again providing the great Sax music at the banquet!

Many other awards were granted as well, issued to the following members. Click HERE to see the list as submitted by club Secretary, Gary WG7X:

Doug Schafer	AB7DG
John Clarke	AC7WW
Stephen Morton	AD7AB
Bob Purdom	AD7LJ
Manny Adonis	AD7MA
George Salisbury	K7GRS
Nick Winter	K7MO
Phil Pia	K7PIA
Leonard Burstiner	KA7NWF
Dan Vacanti	KD7SV
Becky Friedman	KG7PZH
BJ Rollison	KO7T
Chris Maher	N7CPM
Dave Brooks	N7HT
Al Ferguson	N7OMS
Sam Mulvey	N9MII
Adam Barbera	W2NCC
Mike Drorbaugh	W7MKE
Paul Matney	W7PFU
Dave Ellison	W7UUU
Mike Isakson	W7XH
Randy Meyers	WB4SPB
Red Cranefield	WB7EC

HOLIDAY & AWARDS BANQUET

Awards to Membership & Holiday Dinner W7DK

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BANQUET

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com

HOLIDAY & AWARDS BANQUET

Awards to Membership & Holiday Dinner

W7DK

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BANQUET

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com

HOLIDAY & AWARDS BANQUET

Awards to Membership & Holiday Dinner

W7DK

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BANQUET

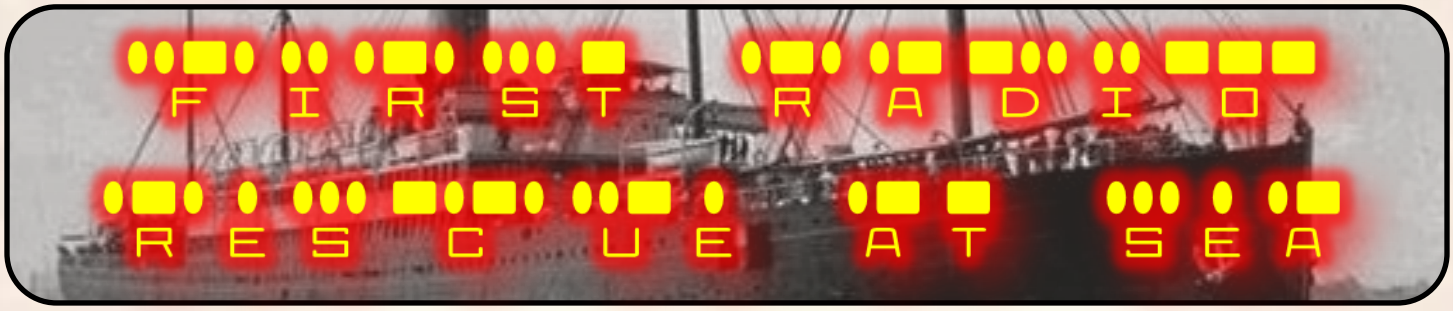
HOLIDAY & AWARDS BANQUET

Awards to Membership & Holiday Dinner W7DK

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BANQUET

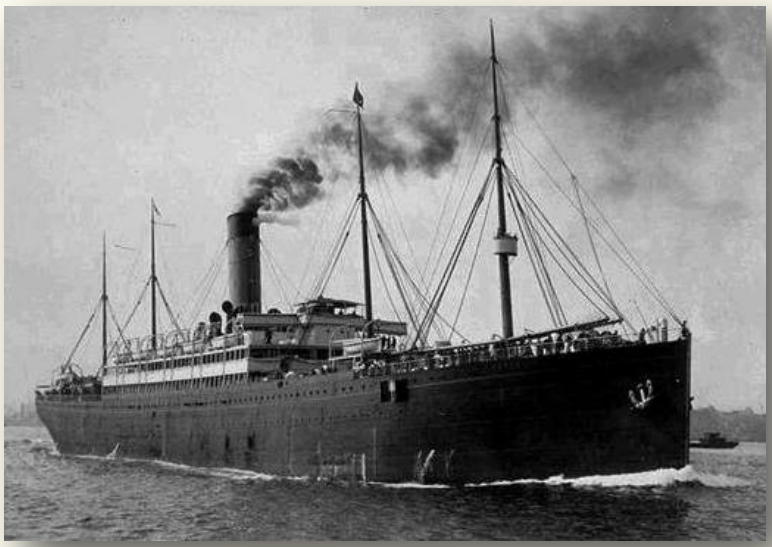
RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com



PICTURE THE EARLY 20th CENTURY, when what was then simply called Wireless—what we now call radio—was still in its infancy. Ships crossing the oceans then began to rely on this marvel of technology to communicate. But most folks today probably first think RMS *Titanic* when considering early radio rescue efforts involving ships. But there was a prior event that really proved radio's worth in a big way. It was in the very early morning hours of January 23, 1909, when a ship-board wireless set saved hundreds of lives in the first-ever radio rescue at sea.

The RMS Republic, a White Star ocean liner launched in 1903, while somewhat smaller, was in many ways just as luxurious as Titanic would later be. She was known as the "Millionaires Ship" because of the number of wealthy Americans who traveled by her. Many such travelers described *Republic* as a "palatial liner" and she was then the flagship of White Star Line's Boston service.



White Star Ocean Liner RMS Republic

Republic was 570 feet long and displaced 15,400 tons, compared to Titanic's 882 feet and 46,000 tons but regardless, she was equipped with *very* luxurious accommodations, carrying close to 2800 passengers and crew. In every way, *Republic* was as resplendent a ship as *Titanic* later would be, regardless of the difference in size.

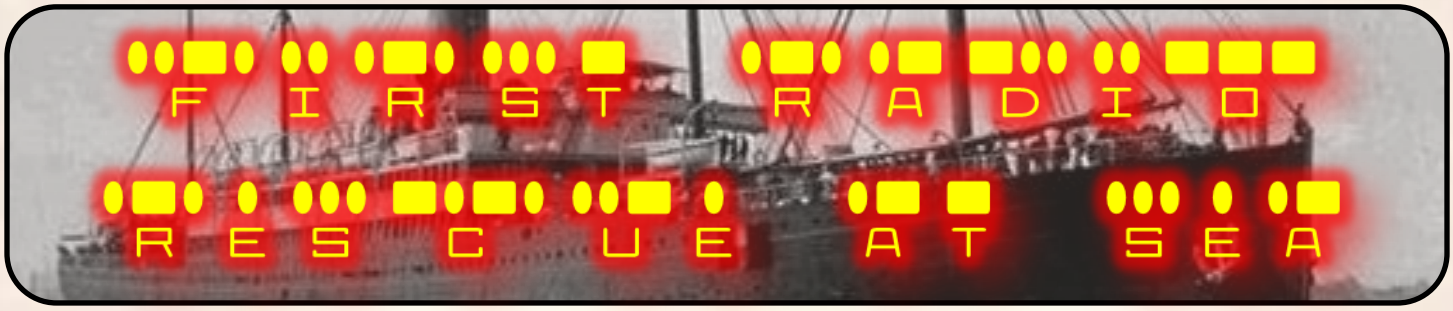
This event of course involves an incident at sea, and unlike *Titanic* with her iceberg, *Republic* would instead encounter another ship, the SS *Florida*, and ultimately meet her demise.

The *Florida*, by contrast, was much smaller at 400 feet long and 5,018 tons. Operated by the Italian *Lloyd Italiano* line, it was primarily a workhorse vessel packed with immigrants journeying to America.

In the pre-dawn hours of January 23, 1909 off Nantucket, Massachusetts, the two ships collided in dense fog. The *Florida* rammed the *Republic*, punching a massive hole in her starboard side. The *Republic's* engine room flooded rapidly, leaving her dead in the water. The *Florida,* though badly damaged, remained afloat but faced her own peril. With visibility near zero and the sea filled with debris, finding help seemed impossible.

Here's where Jack Binns entered the story. The 25-year-old Marconi wireless operator aboard the *Republic* worked quickly, firing up the ship's Marconi-built transmitter and receiver. At the time, the SOS distress signal had only recently been introduced and wasn't yet widely adopted. So instead, Binns sent the older "CQD" signal, meaning "All stations: Distress," repeatedly tapping out the ship's location and the nature of the emergency in Morse Code.

Binns' signals were picked up by several ships, including the *Baltic*, another White Star Line vessel, larger than the *Republic* at 723 feet and 23,876 tons. Guided by Binns' precise transmissions, the *Baltic* navigated through the heavy fog toward the Republic. Without wireless telegraphy, such a



coordinated rescue effort would have been nearly impossible under these conditions.

The Republic's distress call set off a race against time. The liner was slowly sinking, though it stayed afloat long enough for the *Baltic* to arrive and transfer passengers and crew to safety. Meanwhile, the *Florida* managed to limp toward port, aided by other ships responding to the CQD signal.

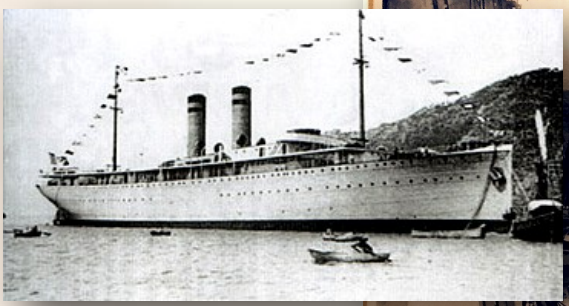
This first-ever radio rescue underscored for the first time the usefulness of wireless telegraphy in maritime safety. Before radio, a ship in distress was effectively cut off from assistance, relying on chance encounters or flares to attract attention. Now, even in dense fog and miles from shore, help could be summoned quickly and efficiently.

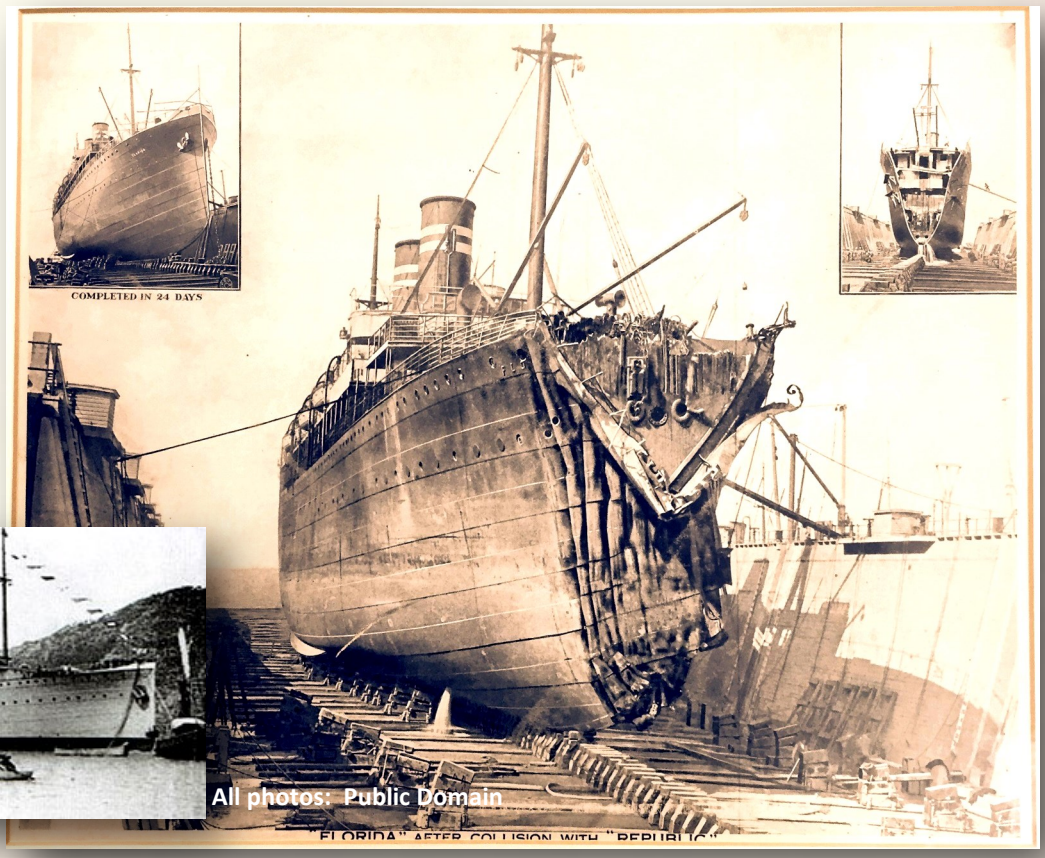
Jack Binns became an international hero, celebrated for his composure and skill under pressure. His actions demonstrated the necessity of equipping ships with reliable wireless systems, a move that soon became mandatory in the maritime industry for all ships. Despite the efforts of *Republic's* captain Sealby and a small skeleton crew to save her, on January 24th *Republic* sank stern first. At 15,378 tons, she was the largest ship ever to sink before. All remaining crew were saved before she went down.

Though the *Republic* was ultimately lost to the sea, the lives of her passengers and crew were saved, thanks to the ingenuity of radio and the bravery of young operator Jack Binns. As for the *Florida*, she limped to port and was repaired quickly—just 24 days after the collision—and returned to service. Renamed *Cavour* in 1911, the ship served in a similar capacity until 1917 when, as her fate would have it, she *again* collided with another vessel, the *Caprera*, and sank near Armevilla, Italy. Thankfully, all aboard survived, marking the end of a storied career for this resilient vessel. Thus ended the first rescue at sea that was facilitated by radio. *Titanic* in April 2012 would not be so fortunate.

-Dave W7UUU

***Below:** SS Florida before and after collision with RMS Republic; she was back at sea in only 24 days*





All photos: Public Domain

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

The Actual Key & Headset From the First Use of SOS at Sea

W7UUU

AS AN INTERESTING ADJUNCT TO THE PREVIOUS article, I found another bit of Morse history that also ties into a rescue at sea by early radio operators. It's a direct follow-on in the aspect that while the radioman of the preceding RMS *Republic* ship used the old CQD distress call to report the collision at sea with the S.S. *Florida*, this story involves the very first* use of the new SOS distress call that replaced CQD. On August 11, 1909 off the coast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, telegraph operator Theodore Haubner called for help from his ship, the S.S. *Arapahoe,* after she suffered a broken propeller shaft and was set adrift, with danger of running aground. In response, Haubner was ordered to send an SOS distress signal—what is considered to be the first time this was done*. For good measure, he also sent CQD. Fortunately, his signal was picked up by the S.S. *Iroquois*, the *Arapahoe*'s sister ship. The *Arapahoe* was successfully towed with all passengers safe and sound to Charleston Harbor for repairs. The arduous journey took 12 harrowing hours.

Gift of Theodore D. Haubner (39.559.1)
Gift of Henry Austin Clark, Jr. (THF101660)
Gift of Dorothy S. Haubner (68.2.3)
In 1909, telegraph operator Theodore Haubner sent the first American ship-to-shore wireless distress signal—SOS—using this telegraph key and these headphones, as the SS *Arapahoe* drifted off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

Display at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan showing the actual key and headset used by Haubner for the first* recorded use of SOS in an at-sea emergency. Photo of display by Dave W7UUU

Over the next several months, repairs were made and the ship returned to service before the end of 1909.

This event, just like the similar event in the preceding story, really highlighted the extreme importance of wireless communications at sea. This event also marked the beginning of the use of SOS over CQD, as a sequence of code that even non-Morse listeners could be trained to easily recognize. By the time of the *Titanic* sinking in 1914, CQD was nearly retired and SOS was by then in almost universal use.

*Some accounts credit Cunard Line's RMS *Slavonia* in June of 1909 as the first to use SOS, so the exact first case is not entirely clear. What is clear, it definitely saved lives at sea. -*Dave W7UUU*

CAMP QUEST NORTHWEST IS HOLDING its second-ever Radio Weekend Jan 17-20th in partnership with the Radio Club of Tacoma. Middle and High School teens age 12-18 can register at https://cqnw.org by January 15.

In Jan 2024, 6 teens and several camp counselors spent 3 days immersed in technician-element material with interactive videos, hands-on labs/electronics, and late-night HF room experience under the tutelage of RCT members Sam Mulvey N9MII, Becky Friedman KG7FZH, Steve Dightman AF7YD, and Phil Pia K7PIA (see March 2024 Bark for a full write-up).

This year, Radio Weekend is hoping to welcome up to 15 teens for a reprise event, this time with instruction and workshop facilitation distributed across campers and counselors who have since earned their tickets. Campers can expect to:

- Study & test for their Amateur Radio Technician license
- Engage in the material in a hands-on, cooperative learning environment
- Be a DJ, announcer, or radio host at KTQA-LP, a community broadcast radio station
- Swim and play at the People's Community Center
- Get on the air on Amateur Radio frequencies and make contacts around the region and around the world!
- Sleep on site at the RCT Clubhouse under CQNW staff supervision

Campers are recommended to have mastery of pre-algebra skills, and they will benefit from proficiency with the foundations of algebra. Prior experience at Camp Quest is not required, and repeat attendees are welcome!

For parents/guardians: Campers must be dropped off by a guardian or authorized adult Friday at 7pm. Guardians will sign out their camper at 1pm on Monday, and subsequently authorize their camper to sit for the FCC licensure exam on site. Light refreshments will be provided for adults during the campers' exam time.

Apart from regular Saturday open house 10am to 2pm, the RCT clubhouse will be closed to members and visitors 7pm Friday to 3pm Monday. Thanks to generous support from the Radio Club of Tacoma and grant funds from the Amateur Radio Relay League, the cost is limited to $50 per camper. More info can be found at CQNW.org and at Camp Quest NorthWest's Facebook page.

-Becky KG7FZH, Camp Quest

Got a Youth radio story? Send it in!

YOUTH ON THE AIR

Programs and stories for Youthful Hams

LEARNING BY DAY, SLUMBER PARTY AT NIGHT!

FOR TEENS

7TH-12TH GRADE

CQNW RADIO WEEKEND

JANUARY 17-20, 2025

TACOMA, WA

REGISTER TODAY AT

www.CQNW.org

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com

THE WAY BACK PHOTO BOOTH

Highlighted photos from the club's past

Researched & Compiled by the Editor

Archive Photo

Very charming photo from a late-1960s or early 1970s W7DK Ham Fair (what the RCT has always called their hamfest–much more than just a Swapmeet). This scene is something of a mystery–the only identified person is Emil Koth **K7GPK**, operating the cash register. But what is possibly being sold isn't quite so easy to figure out. The box on the counter is a "PETRANKER SOLID STATE" battery charger, model 6012. No amount of searching has come up with this odd item–if you know what it is, click the email address below and let me know! None of the other folks have as yet been identified. **The stylish 1920s "Great Gatsby boater's hats" were a trademark of W7DK Ham Fair staffers**–so all of those wearing them are most certainly RCT members. I'd love to know who the little boy is in the lower right–he's most likely still around and I'd love to see if he might today remember the events of this fun day so long ago!

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@

RCT Bulletin Board

Posted notes and other important stuff

Here's a **useful tip** when reading the Bark: if you want to view a link, "right click" > "Open link in new window"… that way you won't lose your place in the Bark!

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Logger's Bark does not use ChatGPT or other AI creation sites to *write articles*. Sometimes graphics are AI generated out of need for license-free images, but NEVER is the text… we *don't allow any* AI written article submissions ■ *-editor*

Last month's Hidden Object:

Beneath the tree on Page 9, tucked near the left side of the fireplace

Last Month's Hidden Word: fragile

It was hidden midway left column in "Why Upgrade to General". See if you can find this month's Hidden Word and win some QRZ stickers mailed directly to you!

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

HUGE THANKS TO Mr. Bruce Horn, WA7BNM for publishing his "Contest Calendar" for all these many years… a truly wonderful resource for finding virtually every ham radio contest on Earth that might be happening, in most any mode and most any region in the world. Follow the link to take you to the site, then sort through the various options to find the specifics of every upcoming event. For now, here's the **WA7BNM** Contest Calendar for the this month. Click the calendar below to visit Bruce's site directly.

January 2025	
AGB New Year Snowball Contest	0000Z-0100Z, Jan 1
SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1
AGCW Happy New Year Contest	0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1800Z, Jan 1
PODXS 070 Club PSKFest	0000Z-2359Z, Jan 4
Marconi Club ARI Loano QSO Party Day	0700Z-2100Z, Jan 4
WW PMC Contest	1200Z, Jan 4 to 1200Z, Jan 5
ARRL Kids Day	1800Z-2359Z, Jan 4
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 4 to 2359Z, Jan 5
EUCW 160m Contest	2000Z, Jan 4 to 0700Z, Jan 5
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jan 7
YB DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jan 11
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Jan 11 to 2359Z, Jan 12
UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest	1200Z, Jan 11 to 1200Z, Jan 12
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 11 to 0559Z, Jan 12
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0630Z-0830Z, Jan 12
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 12
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0900Z-1100Z, Jan 12
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jan 13
NTC QSO Party	1900Z-2000Z, Jan 16
PRO Digi Contest	1200Z, Jan 18 to 1159Z, Jan 19
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 18 to 1159Z, Jan 19
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 18 to 0559Z, Jan 19
ARRL January VHF Contest	1900Z, Jan 18 to 0359Z, Jan 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Jan 19 to 0100Z, Jan 20
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jan 22
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 24 to 2200Z, Jan 26
REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 25 to 1800Z, Jan 26
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 25 to 1200Z, Jan 26
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 25 to 1300Z, Jan 26
Winter Field Day	1600Z, Jan 25 to 2159Z, Jan 26

Click Calendar to visit online

***WA7BNM** Contest Calendar data used with permission*

Background Image Source LINK

THE W7DK ELMER BOARD

Do you have a skill or tool to help new hams?

YOU! YES *YOU!* Do YOU have a skill you could pass on to new amateur radio operators? Do you possess a skill or piece of gear that you're willing to share with others to fix antenna problems, diagnose noise issues, drive a ground rod, teach Morse, help teach technical topics? If the answer is YES you too could be a W7DK Elmer!! Let any officer know what your skills are or how you could help new hams get a leg up on the hobby. And if you're one of those already on the list, are there any changes we should be aware of? If so, please hit the email address (found bottom of page on the right) and let us know so we can update the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma "Elmer Board".

NEW HAMS OR MEMBERS: If you are looking for help, and NEED AN ELMER to help guide your way, use this table! Find the skill you need on the left, then look for an Elmer Provider of that skill on the right and reach out to them. ALL of these Elmer's have committed to helping so please don't hesitate.

ELMER ("MENTOR") BOARD

Do you need help with some area of ham radio?

List of members' areas of interest:

1. Technical questions, Classes
2. Help with Morse Code
3. License Examinations
4. Antenna and Station Planning
5. Antenna and Tower Erection
6. Buying Equipment (new or used)
7. Equipment Repair
8. Understanding and Using Your Gear
9. DXing and Contests
10. Club and ARRL Activities
11. Using Test Equipment
12. IRLP, Digital, SDR, APRS, WinLink, etc.
13. Basics of Electronics—how things work

Current as of December 2024

Name/Call Sign/Phone Number/Topic:

Adam W2NCC 360-870-7894 (4, 5, 6, 7, 11)
Dave N7HT 253-363-1692 (1, 2, 4, 6, 8)
Dave W7UUU (253-820-0890 (2, 4, 6, 9)
Al N7OMS 253-495-9068 (10, 12)
Mike W7XTZ 253-405-8095 (6, 8, 10)
Stephen AD7AB 253-212-9437 (1, 3, 4, 12)
Randy WB4SPB 253-761-9391 (2)
Phil K7PIA 253-307-4781 (9, 10, 12)

Are you an RCT member with skills to offer?

Please let any officer know and we can add you!

Note: Providers or users of the Elmer Board must be local to the Radio Club of Tacoma. This is a local club service for our local members only. Thank you!

HOMEBREW & KITS CORNER

Radio homebrew projects both large & small

LAST MONTH IN THIS COLUMN, I PRESENTED

Steve, KW4H's "ProgRock2 Integration Board" for making use of the amazing QRP Labs ProgRock signal generator "crystal replacement" for receivers.

This month, Steve has released his next cool kit offering: the Mity-Tiny Regulator board.

Here's what Steve has to say about it:

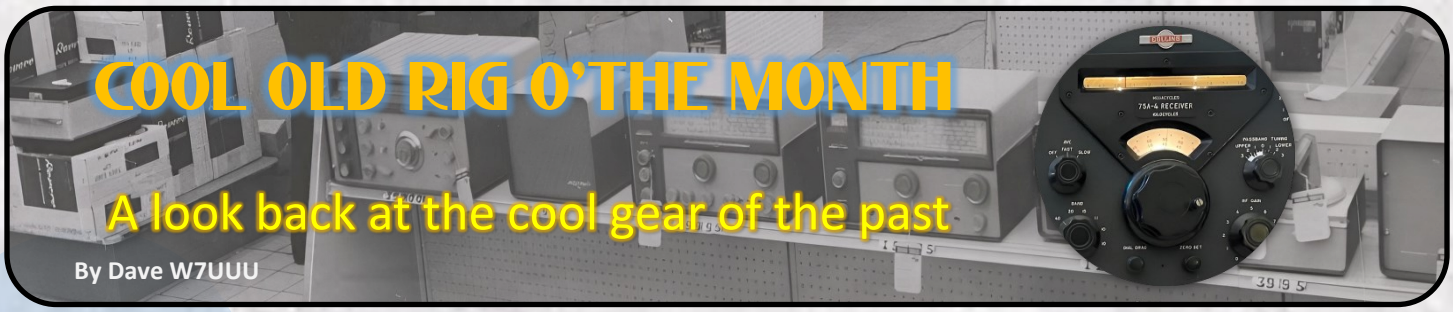
"In December of 2024, I released another interesting and useful ham-made product (ProgRock2 Integration Board). This time, it's the "Mity-Tiny Regulator"—a high quality, uniquely-designed variable-voltage regulator that can take an unregulated AC or DC voltage (up to 37 volts input) and transform it into a precise DC voltage to meet your project requirements. The circuit uses an LM317 regulator chip rated for up to 1.5 amps, as well as a precision multi-turn potentiometer to set the output voltage. However, what makes the KW4H Mity-Tiny unique is that there is no onboard heatsink to consume space—the circuit board, which measures only 1 7/8" by 1 3/4", is specially designed so that the LM317 regulator mounts on the *underside* of the circuit board, with the tab facing your mounting surface. This allows you to turn the metal chassis of the device you're working with into the heatsink, which can save an enormous amount of space. A special heat-conducting insulation pad goes between the LM317 and your mounting surface. This pad electrically insulates the LM317 while permitting excellent heat conduction".

Sold as a kit only, the Mity-Tiny Regulator is easy to construct. As it is with Steve's other creations, all of the components are US-sourced and high quality. The Mity-Tiny kit is available for purchase in the "Ham Made Gear" Swapmeet area on QRZ, by clicking THIS LINK. You'll find assembly instructions there as well.

As with Steve's ProgRock board project, I have no affiliation nor gain from any boards he sells. It's just a cool little project that's very inexpensive ($25 shipped!) and very easy to build, even for newbies.

For a future issue of The Logger's Bark I will be showcasing my implementation of one of Steve's Mity-Tiny Regulator boards as a standalone bench-top general-purpose 1-37v variable power supply for small projects. Perfect for use with TTL and CMOS chips and a proto board. I plan the box to have a panel-mounted variable-voltage potentiometer and a digital meter to read the voltage & current. Be watching for this in an upcoming issue of The Bark.

-Dave W7UUU



COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

A look back at the cool gear of the past

By Dave W7UUU

MOST "HAMS OF A CERTAIN AGE" HAVE HEARD of the Ameco brand (American Electronics Co., New York, NY). They manufactured and sold a wide range of basic ham radio products in the 1960s: Morse code practice oscillators, CW practice LP records and cassette tapes, and of course the iconic and nearly legendary AC-1 one-tube transmitter. The AC-1 is still sought after to this day and originals in good condition can fetch as much as $500 on eBay!

But what many hams may *not* know is that Ameco also made a receiver, called the R5 (later, with slight updates, given the model number R5A).

Both receivers were made by the Aerotron company of Raleigh, North Carolina, an OEM manufacturer of assorted radio and avionics products in the 1960s.

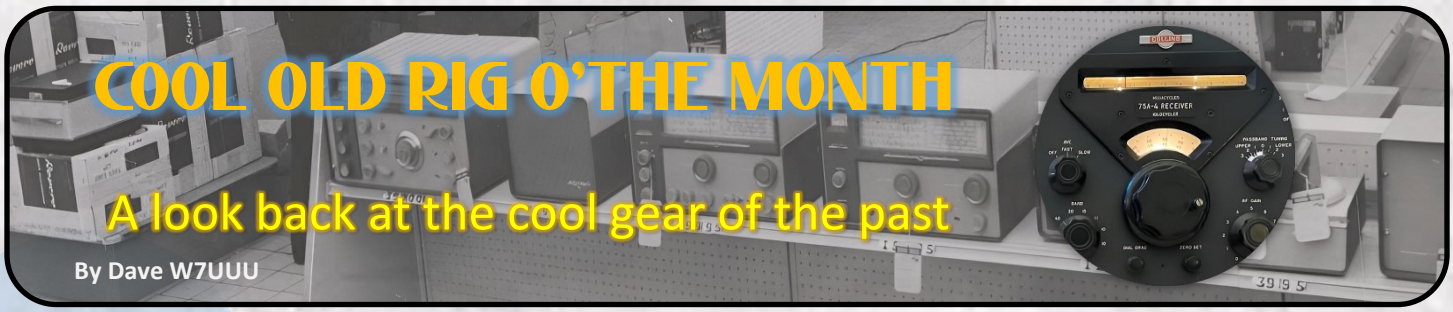
Above: *Original 1968 Ameco R5 receiver*
Below: *Improved version, the R5A. Note the large tuning knob is not original but serves the purpose of making the bandspread tuning a little smoother. See closeup, next page. All photos: from the collection of W7UUU*

In essence, the R5 receiver is a solid-state equivalent of the old "All American Five" receivers of the past, along the lines of the Hallicrafters S-120 and S-38 series. It's a basic single-conversion superhet, covering 540 KHz at the low end of the AM Broadcast band to 54 MHz, the top of the 6-meter ham band. There are five bands in total.

The receiver supports AM and CW with a built-in BFO (beat-frequency oscillator) for the 455-KHz IF. The center panel knob is the main tuning, with a fine tuning bandspread on the far right of the tuning dial. The only other feature of note in the R5 is an Automatic Noise Limiter (ANL). The R5A adds an RCA jack on the rear panel for a Q-Multiplier, a device that enhances the selectivity of the receiver by increasing the effective Q-factor of the IF chain (narrows the IF range).

An accessory speaker called quite simply the S5 was available but is rarely found in the wild—the speaker didn't really match (it was housed in the same case as the Ameco CPS Code practice oscillator) - it's pretty likely most hams just used whatever speaker they had on hand and saved their money.

A Q-Multiplier for the R5A is mentioned in a few places on the web that I could find, that was built into the S5 speaker cabinet. But no photos could be



COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

A look back at the cool gear of the past

By Dave W7UUU

found and I doubt that Ameco ever released the product.

Much like the iconic AC-1 transmitter, the R5 and R5A receivers have a very nice look, that helps to drive the nostalgia for them. But just like the AC-1, the R5 and R5A are not stellar performers. Even a fully restored and operating R5 receiver is fairly limited, and really more suited to SW and BCB listening than for actual amateur radio QSOs on the air.

Of the two versions of the R5 that I own, both have been restored to decent operating condition and are a lot of fun to just listen to local AM broadcast or to tune in the "Noontime Net" on 40 meters when I'm puttering in the shack. Strong signals like these do very well, all things considered. But on higher frequencies, both receivers are prone to drift and strong adjacent signals easily overpower the IF chain, making the receiver pretty useless on a busy band or during an event like a ham radio contest. I have not tried to use a Q-Multiplier on the R5A as yet, but suspect it might help a bit to tighten the IF passband. Adding an external audio filter such as an Autek QF1 or QF1A makes a big difference in trying to copy stronger CW signals, as well as on SSB.

On my R5A, the bandspread tuning knob is not original and at first glance I thought it looked rather silly. But in practice, the larger diameter helps smooth the tuning rate of the bandspread dial and works quite well. See the photo below for the "straight-on" view of the larger knob and how it still allows the index pointer to be visible.

At the end of the day, I really don't consider either the R5 or the R5A to be a contender in any station setup other than "nostalgia station". But to that end, for a future Logger's Bark article, I plan to set up a pairing of the Ameco AC-1 transmitter with the R5 and R5A receivers and operate in an organized event such as an SKCC Weekend Sprint, a Classic Exchange, or the Novice Rig Roundup. Be watching for this future article, so you can see and hear this receiver in use on the air making contacts!

Do *you* have any Ameco R5 stories to share? I'd love to hear from you… just click the email below.

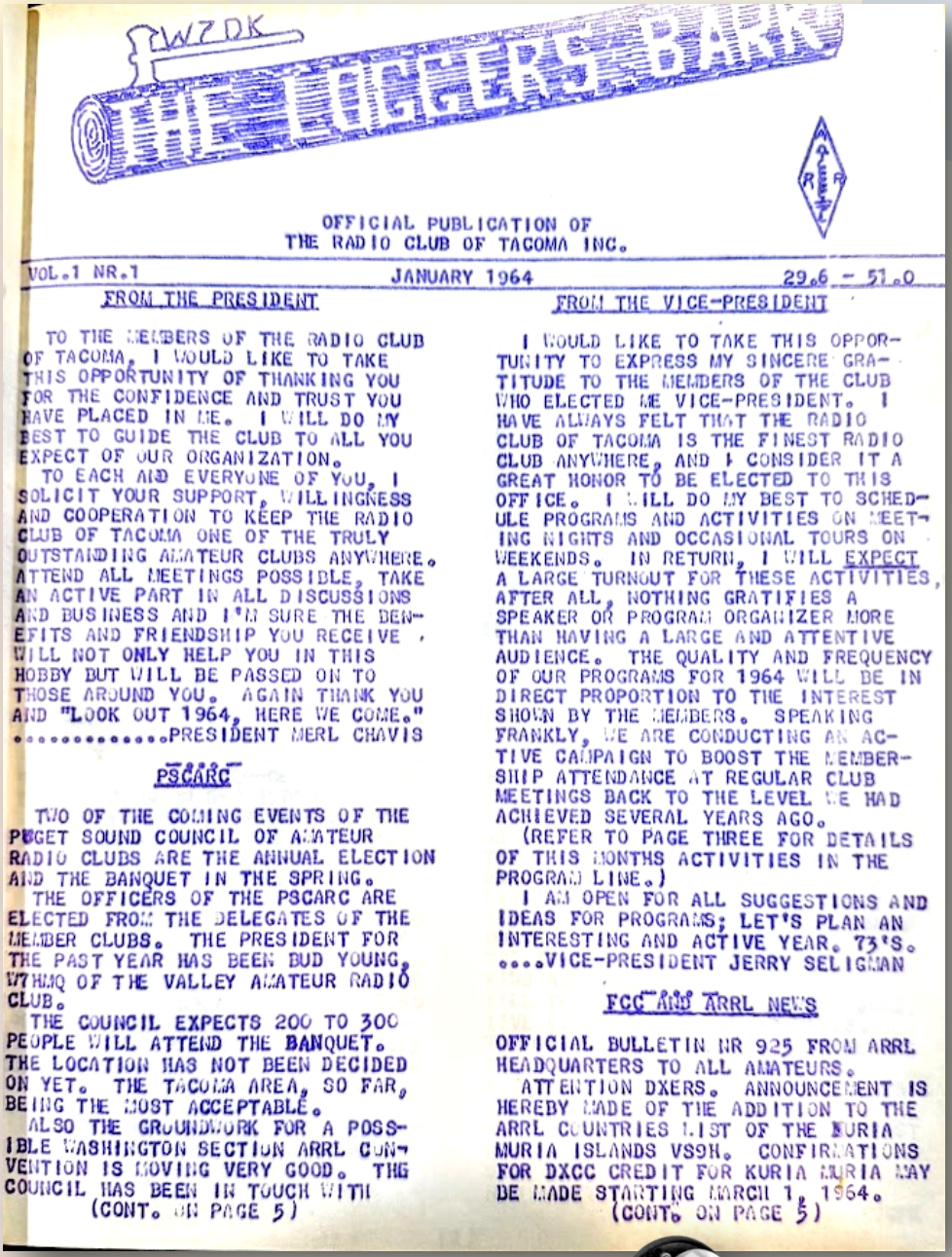
-Dave W7UUU

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

The FIRST EVER Issue of *The Bark*

January 1964

W7UUU



W7DK

THE LOGGERS BARK

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA INC.

VOL.1 NR.1 JANUARY 1964 29.6 - 51.0

FROM THE PRESIDENT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF THANKING YOU FOR THE CONFIDENCE AND TRUST YOU HAVE PLACED IN ME. I WILL DO MY BEST TO GUIDE THE CLUB TO ALL YOU EXPECT OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

TO EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU, I SOLICIT YOUR SUPPORT, WILLINGNESS AND COOPERATION TO KEEP THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA ONE OF THE TRULY OUTSTANDING AMATEUR CLUBS ANYWHERE. ATTEND ALL MEETINGS POSSIBLE, TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN ALL DISCUSSIONS AND BUSINESS AND I'M SURE THE BENEFITS AND FRIENDSHIP YOU RECEIVE WILL NOT ONLY HELP YOU IN THIS HOBBY BUT WILL BE PASSED ON TO THOSE AROUND YOU. AGAIN THANK YOU AND "LOOK OUT 1964, HERE WE COME."

.....PRESIDENT MERL CHAVIS

PSCARC

TWO OF THE COMING EVENTS OF THE PUGET SOUND COUNCIL OF AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS ARE THE ANNUAL ELECTION AND THE BANQUET IN THE SPRING.

THE OFFICERS OF THE PSCARC ARE ELECTED FROM THE DELEGATES OF THE MEMBER CLUBS. THE PRESIDENT FOR THE PAST YEAR HAS BEEN BUD YOUNG, W7HMQ OF THE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB.

THE COUNCIL EXPECTS 200 TO 300 PEOPLE WILL ATTEND THE BANQUET. THE LOCATION HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED ON YET. THE TACOMA AREA, SO FAR, BEING THE MOST ACCEPTABLE.

ALSO THE GROUNDWORK FOR A POSSIBLE WASHINGTON SECTION ARRL CONVENTION IS MOVING VERY GOOD. THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH

(CONT. ON PAGE 5)

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CLUB WHO ELECTED ME VICE-PRESIDENT. I HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA IS THE FINEST RADIO CLUB ANYWHERE, AND I CONSIDER IT A GREAT HONOR TO BE ELECTED TO THIS OFFICE. I WILL DO MY BEST TO SCHEDULE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES ON MEETING NIGHTS AND OCCASIONAL TOURS ON WEEKENDS. IN RETURN, I WILL EXPECT A LARGE TURNOUT FOR THESE ACTIVITIES, AFTER ALL, NOTHING GRATIFIES A SPEAKER OR PROGRAM ORGANIZER MORE THAN HAVING A LARGE AND ATTENTIVE AUDIENCE. THE QUALITY AND FREQUENCY OF OUR PROGRAMS FOR 1964 WILL BE IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO THE INTEREST SHOWN BY THE MEMBERS. SPEAKING FRANKLY, WE ARE CONDUCTING AN ACTIVE CAMPAIGN TO BOOST THE MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE AT REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS BACK TO THE LEVEL WE HAD ACHIEVED SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

(REFER TO PAGE THREE FOR DETAILS OF THIS MONTHS ACTIVITIES IN THE PROGRAM LINE.)

I AM OPEN FOR ALL SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS FOR PROGRAMS; LET'S PLAN AN INTERESTING AND ACTIVE YEAR. 73'S.

....VICE-PRESIDENT JERRY SELIGMAN

FCC AND ARRL NEWS

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 925 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS TO ALL AMATEURS.

ATTENTION DXERS. ANNOUNCEMENT IS HEREBY MADE OF THE ADDITION TO THE ARRL COUNTRIES LIST OF THE KURIA MURIA ISLANDS VS9H. CONFIRMATIONS FOR DXCC CREDIT FOR KURIA MURIA MAY BE MADE STARTING MARCH 1, 1964.

(CONT. ON PAGE 5)

Above: Page one of first Logger's Bark ever produced. Click on the image to open a zoomable link.
Right: 1960s spirit copier (mimeograph). Photo: Kimsaka

SIXTY ONE YEARS AGO, on January 1, 1964, the first issue of the Radio Club of Tacoma's *Logger's Bark* newsletter was printed and mailed to club members.

If you read last month's *Bark* (December 2024), you would know why it's typed in all caps… no, it wasn't considered "shouting" like we think of today when someone has their caps-lock key stuck. It was because the mimeograph "spirit copier" stencil used to create *The Bark* was typed using a 1930s "Mill" typewriter—a typewriter designed for telegraphers. A Mill only types in capital letters to reduce confusion over a message. Zeros were slashed, and the letter O was clearly not a zero. The letter I could not be confused with the number 1, etc.

Don't miss the historical ARRL note in the lower right. The Kuria Muria Islands (also known as Khuriya Muriya, and Kooria Mooria Islands at different times) had just been the site of a major 1963 DXpedition with the call sign VS9H. But the entity was not added to the ARRL DXCC countries list until March 1, 1964 (two months after this Bark was issued).

However, just three years later on November 30, 1967, the Kuria Muria Islands DX entity was removed from the ARRL DXCC list when the entity no longer met the new 100 Km (62 mile) distance from the parent country, Oman. The islands are only 25 miles away.

-Dave W7UUU

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

The FIRST EVER Issue of *The Bark*

January 1964

W7UUU

-•••-

CLUB PROGRAMS

"MYSTERY MOBILE CONTEST" JAN. 8TH THIS CONTEST WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THE BUSINESS MEETING JANUARY 8. NO MOBILE EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED. ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS ONE FLASHLIGHT FOR EACH PARTICIPANT, ENOUGH GAS TO DRIVE 10 MILES AND A DONATION OF 25 CENTS. ALL THE RULES WILL BE DIFFERENT THAT FOR THE LAST HUNT, HOWEVER, NICE PRIZES WILL BE OFFERED

FILM SHOW JANUARY 22. MOVIES WILL BE SHOWN AFTER THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING JANUARY 22. THERE WILL BE A 28 MINUTE FILM ON COMMUNICATIONS AND CIVIL DEFENSE. ALSO ARE THREE SHORT MOVIES ON COAXIAL CABLES AND MICROWAVES, MANUFACTURE OF QUARTZ CRYSTALS AND A PREVIEW OF ELECTRONIC MIRACLES OF THE FUTURE. MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND BOTH OF THESE. YOU WON'T BE SORRY.

-•••-

Above left: Club Programs in 1964 were in some ways the same as today (films showing hams doing their stuff), but also rather different such as a "Mystery Mobile Contest" that involved using flashlights—no mention of radio at all! If anyone knows what this might have been, please send me an email.

-•••-

SWAP COLUMN

FOR SALE BC-221 FREQ. METER...$60.00
" " GONSET 6 M CONV..... 30.00
" " " SUPER SIX.... 25.00
" " " SUPER-CEIVER. 25.00
" " JOHNSON 6-2 XMTR WITH POWER SUPPLY AND MOD 85.00
CONTACT EV SYVERSON W7CZK GR-23455

FOR SALE 5 EL. WIDESPACED 6 M BEAM $ 8.50
" " HY-GAIN 14AVS 12.50
" " " 6M HALO 7.00
" " HEATH HD-11 10.00
" " HEATH BALUN COILS 5.00
" " DRAKE SPEAKER 7.50
" " 6 TO 8 MC. 6 METER X-TALS (BIG SELECTION) 1.25
CONTACT JACK HEGSETH K7DBU SK-97914

FOR SALE TELETYPE MODEL 26 WITH POWER SUPPLY $50.00
CONTACT RUSS CHRYST W7ATB SK-27303

-•••-

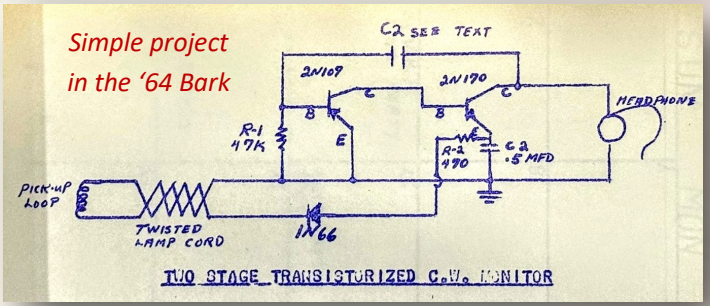
Multiply by 10 to get today's price

Above right: A fun glimpse into gear that was being sold in winter of 1964: WWII surplus BC-221 frequency meter, Gonest and Johnson 6 and 2 meter transmitters and receivers; Hi-Gain vertical antenna (very close to a model that was still being sold from MFJ who purchased Hy-Gain many years ago).

NOTE: This seller, Jack Hegseth K7DBU is still a member of Radio Club of Tacoma and visits the clubhouse!

-Dave W7UUU

Simple project in the '64 Bark



In 1964, transistors were taking the main stage in amateur experimentation—the 2N109 and 2N170 being very popular choices of the offerings available then. Long ago obsolete, with modern replacements that work a lot better for much cheaper—a New Old Stock 2N109 is collectible today—as high as $25 to $30 if you *must* have one!

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

MIGHTY DK! QSO REPORT

Reporting all the HF QSO action from the club

EACH MONTH in the Bark, the Radio Club of Tacoma recognizes the members and guests who have made non-contest QSOs using the HF stations at our clubhouse. Saturday Open House, especially, is a time when members have access to this equipment. Why not sit down at one of our operating desks and make a contact or two? Assistance is almost always available for those unfamiliar with the equipment, and if your license class doesn't permit HF operation, ask the denizens of the HF Room or the Saturday clubhouse host to help you find a suitably-licensed control operator to sit with you. It's a feather in the club's hat for the call sign of The Mighty DK to be heard on the airwaves. So get on the air and get your name in the Bark! (Don't forget to *enter your call sign as the operator* into our logging program.) ■ *-editor*

Clubhouse QSOs during this period:

NAME	CALL	QSOs
Mike	W7MKE	85
Mike	W7XH	74
Gary	WG7X	55
Dave	W7GEL	34
Julie	KK7VHG	6
Phil	K7PIA	2

Above: HF Room Flex 6600 & Mercury III

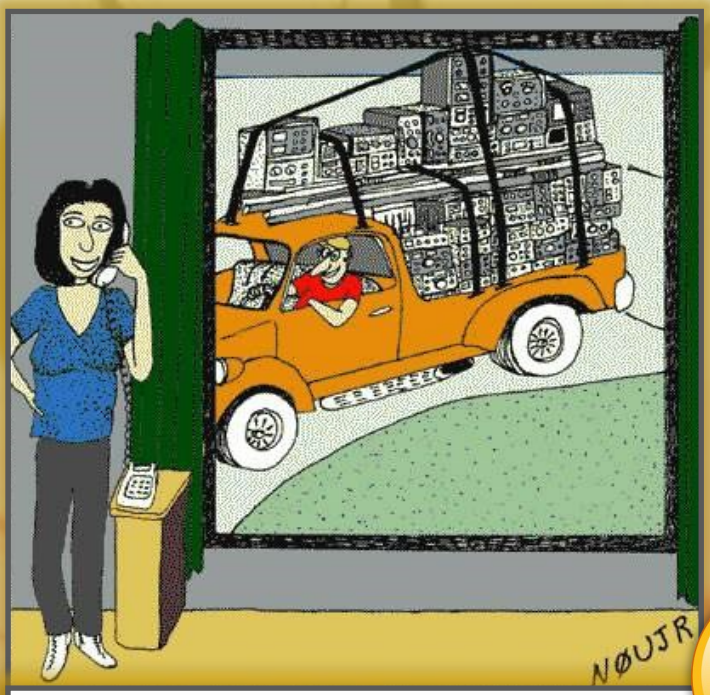
Below: HF Room Icom IC-7610 & KPA-500

Photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

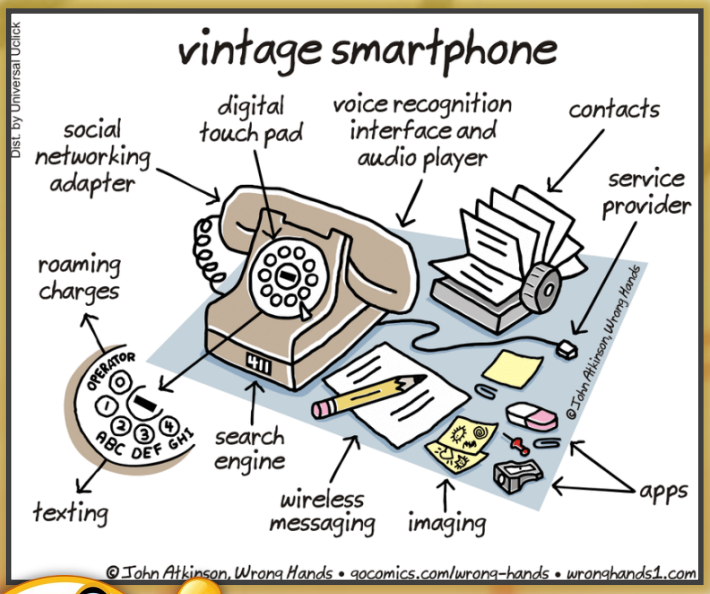
RETURN TO HOME PAGE

THE FUNNY PAPERS

Ham Humor for Humorous Hams



"No Greg went to the ham auction this afternoon, to get rid of a couple old radios cluttering up the place.... Oh I think I hear him pulling in now!"



RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com

HOW'S DX?

DXpeditions and Notable DX operations

WEB

NG3K Upcoming DXpedition Calendar

January						
2025 Jan04	2025 Jan05	**Gambia**	**C5RK**	EA7FTR	DXW.Net 20231014	By F4GJE; 80-10m; SSB FT8 FT4
2025 Jan10	2025 Oct16	**Palau**	**T8**	Home Call (B/d)	OPDX 20241007	By JA6EGL as T88SM and JE6KFN as T88XK fm Koror; 160-6m; CW SSB + digital
2025 Jan10	2025 Jan31	**Benin**	**TY5C**	LoTW	DXW.Net 20241023	By F5NVF fm Godomey; 80-10m; CW FT8; 100w; wire; holiday stye operation; QSL via F5RAV direct
2025 Jan11	2025 Jan12	**Senegal**	**6W1RD**	EA7FTR	DXW.Net 20231014	By F4GJE; 80-10m; SSB FT8 FT4
2025 Jan12	2025 Jan27	**Marquesas**	**TX7N**	LoTW	TDDX 20240902	By F6BCW F5SDD + 12 op team fm Hiva Oa I; 160-6m; 5 stationsn; 24hrs/7days; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2025 Jan17	2025 Feb02	**Mozambique**	**C8K**	LoTW	425DXN 20240906	By OK1BOA OK1FCJ OK1CRM OK1GK OK2ZA OK2ZC OK2ZI OK6DJ; 160-6m, incl 60m; SSB CW RTTY FT8 FT4 PSK; QSL vi OK6DJ

Click anywhere on the table above to visit Bill's site directly—the hyperlinks will be active there.

Courtesy Bill Feidt, NG3K
used with permission

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

AS HAM RADIO OPERATORS MOST OF US have at one time or another had RF from our transmitters "get into stuff". Very frequently, stray RF in the shack can disrupt the high-speed serial communication carried on a USB cable.

Have you ever keyed up your transmitter only to hear the "bleep bleep" from your shack computer tell you that a USB-connected device has failed? Most likely it is due to the RF scrambling the data being sent and received by that cable.

The causes are many: grounding issues being most common, but other factors such as length of USB cable, quality of its internal shield conductor, and even the speed at which the data is carried.

Higher quality USB cables often will have a "lump" at one end or both, with shrink-tubing over it. What is inside that lump is in fact a snap-on ferrite choke which will often greatly help reduce the RFI picked up by the USB cable. But most USB cables come with no such filter in place.

It's very inexpensive and easy to solve using an assortment kit of snap-on filters such as those illustrated here (as always, no financial affiliation whatsoever—merely a link to a product I have used successfully myself).

The assortment at the left sells on Amazon for under $20 and provides a wide variety of ferrite suppressor snap-on filters. They range in size from 3mm to 13mm to fit nicely on most common cable sizes. Often, it helps to "loop" a USB cable through a larger size filter to provide a tighter RF coupling to the ferrite.

You an also double or triple them up to increase the effect. See the lower photo: this was for a situation where the antenna in use was far less than ideal, and the laptop being used for FT8 was much closer than it should have been. Of course, the power level was only 4 watts so quite safe for the operator (me!) to be nearby. But even at that low power, it took all the filters you see installed on the USB cable to finally achieve stable operation without crashing the WSJT-X software or the laptop itself. Click either photo to see this item listed on Amazon.

-Dave W7UUU

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

RADIO ADS FROM 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

W7UUU

Radio News for January, 1925
1195
No. 772
45-volt
large
vertical
Price
$3.75
No. 766
22½-volt
large
horizontal
Price
$2.00
Dry "B" Batteries are more economical and more dependable than any other source of plate current!
Cut your operating cost
THIRTY years' experience in the manufacture of dry batteries has enabled us within the past two years to steadily and greatly improve dry "B" Battery quality. Eveready "B" Batteries are now from two to three times better than ever before.
Eveready "B" Batteries will long outlast any others, and are the most economical and dependable source of plate current. These are strong statements, but they have been proved by tests in our own and in independent laboratories. Check them for yourself on your own radio set. Get Eveready "B" Batteries.
There is an Eveready Radio Battery for every radio use.
Manufactured and guaranteed by
NATIONAL CARBON COMPANY, Inc.
Headquarters for Radio Battery Information
New York San Francisco
Canadian National Carbon Co., Limited, Toronto, Ontario
EVEREADY
Radio Batteries
—they last longer
ALWAYS TEST "B" BATTERIES WITH A VOLTMETER—NEVER AN AMMETER
No. 770 45 VOLTS
EVEREADY
RADIO
"B" BATTERY
This battery is best suited for use on sets of 1 to 3 tubes. For all loud speaker sets, much greater economy will result from using either of the Heavy Duty batteries No. 770 or Eveready Layerbilt No. 486.
NATIONAL CARBON CO., INC.
NEW YORK SAN FRANCISCO
THIS BATTERY IS FULLY GUARANTEED

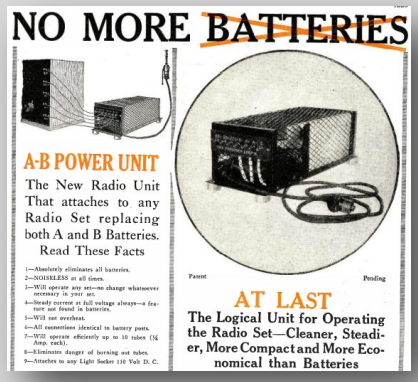
Did You Know?

PRIOR TO THE MID-1920s, ALL TUBE RADIO RECEIVERS ran on batteries—whether AM Broadcast radios or amateur radio receivers copying 200 meter CW QSOs. This included not just radio sets for portable use but also when used in the home. AC mains power was only coming into common use during this era, and many homes had few electrical outlets to plug things in—not necessarily in the "listening room".

However by 1925, mains-powered AC adapters began to appear in magazine adverts but they were slow to catch on due to the mentioned lack of outlets in many cases, and also due to the fairly-high cost: $25 for an AC adapter in 1925 would inflate to over $440 today. That would be roughly half the cost of a typical starter radio in most homes, ranging from $40 to $100 at the time ($709 and $1773 in today's dollars).

Receivers in 1925 required at least two batteries: an "A" battery to provide tube filament voltage to "light the tubes" and a 45v to 90v "B" battery to power the filaments. Some more advanced sets required a "C" battery for screen bias voltage. All types cost around $4 to $8 each, and I'm pretty sure it was considered a very severe "no-no" to leave the room after listening to a favorite program or scanning the bands for new CW DX stations, and forget to turn off the power switch, thus running the batteries dead!

-Dave W7UUU


NO MORE BATTERIES
A-B POWER UNIT
The New Radio Unit That attaches to any Radio Set replacing both A and B Batteries. Read These Facts
Patent Pending
AT LAST
The Logical Unit for Operating the Radio Set—Cleaner, Steadier, More Compact and More Economical than Batteries

PRICE
$25.00
Sent Express Collect
Better order to-day. In two weeks' time we will be so swamped with orders that they will have to wait their turn. Orders sent now can be filled immediately.
THE RADIOGEM CORP.,
66-R—West Broadway, New York City.
Gentlemen:—I enclose $25.00. Kindly ship me express collect one A-B Power Unit (for 110 volt direct current only).
Name
Address
City and State

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com

Plan Now: Upcoming POTA!

By BJ KO7T

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA POTA 2025 Schedule

This past year, the club hosted 11 POTA activations at 7 different parks, and we have BIG plans for 2025! To start the year, the club will again participate in Winter Field Day on January 25th and 26th from Kanaskat-Palmer State Park (US-3209) and will again schedule a POTA activation each month (except December). The club's current schedule is:

PARK: Kanaskat-Palmer State Park
DATE: January 24th - January 26, 2025
TIMES: 4:00 PM PST

PARK: Saltwater State Park
DATE: February 16, 2025
TIMES: 10 AM PST

PARK: Dash Point State Park
DATE: March 16, 2025
TIMES: 10 AM PST

PARK: Lake Sammamish State Park
DATE: April 20, 2005
TIMES: 10:00 AM PST

January will be our second annual **Winter Field Day POTA Event**. We have reserved 2 yurts to accommodate 6 people. If you wish to stay in a Yurt, the cost is $40.00 per person and must be paid to BJ Rollison (KO7T). Bring your own food and drinks, and bedding. If you want to rough it, or have a trailer you can also reserve a campsite by going to Washington State Parks Reservation System. For more details, please contact potaops@w7dk.org

Everyone is invited to come to our POTA activation events. It's a great opportunity to learn about different antenna types, setting up and tuning antennas with loading coils and/or a counterpoise, learn about different digital modes, and other topics related to portable operations. We usually have 3 to 5 stations set up running many modes on multiple bands. We encourage prospective hams to get on the air, and those with Technician licenses to operate on different bands with a control operator. For club members with a General license, we even have a portable POTA kit that is available to check out from the club the Saturday prior to our club activations. Please see or email BJ Rollison (KO7T) for more information. *-BJ KO7T*

BJ KO7T operating at a recent POTA activation

GOING CLUBBING AT THE PARK!

I have always enjoyed operating portable at local parks and even in parks around the world. A few years ago, I proposed that the Radio Club of Tacoma sponsor POTA activations for our club members. Now, as many of you know, when you propose a new idea at your club, you are the *de facto* "club-appointed volunteer" to make it happen! So, just like that, I was the club's POTA guy!

What began as a way to get club members outside the clubhouse and actively engaged with portable operations has grown into a monthly activity for learning, socializing, and playing radio in the beautiful outdoors! While we have fun making contacts with POTA hunters, we spend a lot of time learning about different antenna configurations, properly tuning antennas, experimenting, comparing radios and peripheral devices, learning new modes, helping new techs make their first HF contact, introducing others to amateur radio, and talking everything radio while enjoying a picnic-like atmosphere.

Author BJ, KO7T doing a POTA activation on Mount Samat in Bataan National Park, Philippines

While we strive collectively to make our quota (minimum of 10 contacts) for a successful POTA activation, the focus of a club activation is more about learning and having fun. And the best part of club activations is that both the club and the operator get credit for the POTA activation! If this sounds like something you want to start with *your* club, the Parks on the Air website provides great information for setting up and organizing club activations with this great guide: POTA Activator Guide for Clubs. Here are some additional lessons we've learned along the way.

IN THE BEGINNING…

One of the first things to do is create a POTA account for the club. But, before doing so, you should coordinate with the club's webmaster to create an email account for the club's POTA activities and set up a webpage on the club's website to schedule and announce planned activities. With a club POTA email address, you are ready to visit POTA and create a club POTA account for logging all POTA activations and other activity.

SHOW OFF...

Schedule a brief presentation for club members with basic information about POTA hunting and activating. There is no need for a deep dive into history or other superfluous information. Keep it simple. Avoid death by PowerPoint—don't fill slides with text and read them aloud; your audience can read.

A GOOD OUTLINE INCLUDES...

- A simple explanation of POTA and what constitutes a qualifying park
- Hunting and activating POTA parks
- Basic equipment
- How to create an account on the POTA app webpage
- Navigating the POTA app webpage (spotting, scheduling, uploading ADI files, etc.)
- Details for your club activations (scheduling, setting up logging software, park passes, collection and submission of ADI files, contact information, etc.)
- Encourage members to set up their own POTA account at Parks on the Air.

MAKE A PLAN...

Planning your activations well in advance ensures the greatest participation of your club's membership. Try to schedule at least a month ahead. Our club's POTA activations are so popular that we schedule them three months in advance.

Make sure to send an email blast to club members, announce activations in newsletters, and post them on the club's website. Include the date, time, and location of the activation. Also, schedule the activation on the POTA app to let hunters worldwide know when and where you will activate.

Choose parks that are accessible to all members, considering mobility issues, fresh water, and restroom availability. Here in western Washington,

BJ KO7T led a multi-operator group at Kitsap Memorial State Park in January 2024—a great success for the club POTA effort!

weather is a major factor, so I usually pick parks with pavilions in case of rain. Reserve the pavilion if needed, and ensure there is enough space for multiple antennas while keeping the setup safe for other park visitors.

Schedule activations to coincide with POTA official events, like the quarterly "Support Your Parks" weekends in January, April, July, and October, or Winter Field Day.

Create a cheat sheet for activators, including...

- Instructions for logging software (club callsign as primary, operator callsign as secondary)
- The POTA park number
- Maidenhead grid locator (and county/state if needed)
- Sample exchanges for phone, CW, and digital modes

Go Play in a Park...

As the "POTA person" everyone will look to you to be the expert and be there for answers about setup, frequencies, and logging. Arrive early and bring extra connectors, coax, tools, water, and snacks.

Each station should have a "station designation" for the POTA spotting page. Instead of "/R01" or similar, use "/OP1, /OP2," etc., to align with FCC regulations. This designation is for the spotting page only; it is NOT used on the air.

Set up antennas *carefully*, avoiding trees if rangers discourage it (some parks outright prohibit antennas that touch trees in any way). Many parks prefer masts or poles instead. Experimenting with antennas or tuning loading coils is a great group activity.

Use band-pass filters to reduce interference between stations. Ensure logging software is configured correctly, and spot each station with the appropriate designation on the POTA spotting page.

Walk attendees through new modes like FT8/FT4 if needed. Give everyone a chance to operate, and let unlicensed visitors make supervised SSB calls using the club call or the call of one of the operators who is in the role of "control operator".

Take photos and collect attendees' names and callsigns for the club newsletter or website.

It's a Wrap...

After the activation, pack up equipment and clean the area. The policy of "Leave no trace" ensures goodwill with rangers and park visitors.

Each activator should export their logs to an ADI file and send it to the POTA coordinator, who will:

- Check that the "STATION_CALLSIGN" field uses the club's callsign and the "OPERATOR" field has the correct individual callsign.
- Merge ADI files and upload them to the POTA website.
- Upload logs to the club's records.

Club POTA activations aren't about racking up contacts. They're about learning, camaraderie, and exploring parks while sharing our love of amateur radio.

So get with your club and if they aren't already doing POTA activations, maybe it's time that you be the one to get the ball rolling!

—BJ Rollison KO7T

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

Bigfoot SES & Salmon Run Mugs

W7UUU

Photos by Dave W7UUU

BIG THANKS TO MIKE W7MKE for creating these fabulous etched-glass beer mugs for all those who operated one of the six letter stations for the recent "Bigfoot Special Event": W7B, W7I, W7G, W7F, W7O, and W7T. The club made well over 15,000 contacts and so far has mailed out over 300 certificates and QSL cards.

And of course, a big shout-out as well to all those members who took the time to operate one of the stations! For some, it was their first shot at being the "object of a pileup" which can truly be a thrill if you've never experienced one before. We're hoping for an even bigger event next year (October 20th is Sasquatch Awareness Day). *-Dave W7UUU*

AND KUDOS AS WELL TO THE Western Washington DX Club (WWDXC), sponsors of the Washington State QSO Party, also known as The Salmon Run, for very generously providing a beautiful engraved glass beer mug to all of the W7DK Operators who participated in the 2024 SR even, garnering the club a "Clean Sweep" of all 39 counties in the state of Washington.

-Dave W7UUU

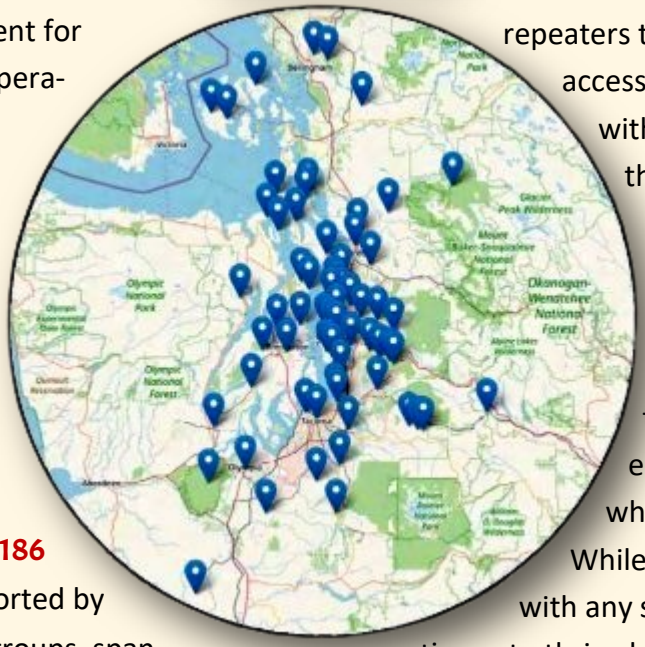
Operators who participated:

Leah K7IPT, Phil K7PIA, Dan KD7SV, Alex KG7UMZ, Nathan KK7QND, Sam N9MII, Warren NG7G, Adam W2NCC, Wade W7ITL, Mike W7MKE, Dave W7UUU, Mike W7XH, Jeff W8NGS, and Randy WB4SPB.

Thanks to all for participating in this event!

A REPEATER-BASED CONTEST

THE REPEATER ROUNDABOUT CELEBRATED ITS THIRD SUCCESSFUL YEAR in 2024, continuing its mission to help amateur radio enthusiasts discover local repeaters and clubs while fostering connections within the ham radio community. Designed to be a welcoming event for both new and experienced operators, this simple contest features an easy exchange and provides a preconfigured CHIRP file, giving participants a chance to program their rigs for all of the participating repeaters, and practice their skills.



This year's event saw a record 186 participating repeaters, supported by 70 amateur radio clubs and groups, spanning the Puget Sound and beyond, as far as Idaho. Of note, all four W7DK repeaters were included, collectively facilitating over 50 contacts. The 147.280 repeater was a standout performer, earning 15th place on the leaderboard with 30 activations.

I had a good time scanning the bands, bumping into new folk and finding I can hit a whole lot more repeaters than I expected. That said, one of the real highlights of the event for me was helping a brand-new ham operator make their first-ever contact during the contest. It's a great feeling to know that the event helped people learn to program their radio, get an antenna set up, and push the PTT for the first time! Participants also often discover repeaters they didn't know they could access, and many go on to connect with local clubs, strengthening the community.

The Roundabout relies on the generosity of clubs and repeater owners who share their resources for the weekend, and we thank everyone who contributed to its success. While the event is not affiliated with any specific organization, it continues to thrive because of the ham radio community's enthusiasm and support. The whole event is powered by open-source software that automates key tasks such as repeater mapping, CHIRP file creation, and log scoring -- see THIS LINK. Anybody could deploy a Repeater Roundabout in their area.

Thanks to all who participated this year, and we hope for an even greater turnout next year. Until then, 73!

-Quentin Caudron, PhD—K7DRQ

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

Fun stuff for Hams to read!

Hidden Word Contest

THIS MONTH'S HIDDEN WORD IS "**graphite**"! It will be hidden within a sentence somewhere in this issue of The Bark. But it's a graphic, not actual text so you can't just use CTRL-F to find it!

The first to find it I will send an envelope with cool W7DK & QRZ.com bumper stickers! Just email me! And as always, this page does not count!

Hidden Object Contest

THIS MONTH'S HIDDEN OBJECT is a basic WWII J-38 Straight Key very similar to the one pictured below. It's hidden in plain view somewhere in this issue of The Bark. Be the first one to find it and I will send you an envelope with cool QRZ.com bumper stickers! Just send an email to the address below and tell me where it is. And of course, this page doesn't count!

Famous Ham January Birthdays

- **King Hussein of Jordan (JY1) - January 14, 1935**

One of the most famous amateur radio operators in history. As JY1, his callsign reflected his status as a monarch. King Hussein was an active and approachable operator, often chatting with hams worldwide. Many hams who worked him got a fabulous ornate QSL card in return.

- **Barry Goldwater (K7UGA) - January 1, 1909**

A U.S. Senator and 1964 Republican presidential candidate, Goldwater was a strong advocate for amateur radio and famously helped countless soldiers connect with their families using phone patches during the Vietnam War. He *almost* became the first ham radio operator as President of the United States!

- **Dave Bell (W6AQ) - January 19, 1937**

A renowned amateur radio filmmaker and producer, Dave W6AQ made documentaries that showcased the magic of amateur radio, bringing our story to broader audiences.

- **Howard Hughes (W5CY) - January 1, 1905**

The eccentric billionaire aviator, filmmaker, and inventor was also an amateur radio operator, highlighting the versatility of people in the hobby.

- **Arthur Godfrey (K4LIB) - January 31, 1903**

While very famous as a radio and TV broadcaster, Godfrey was an active ham who enjoyed the technical and personal aspects of the hobby.

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

Fun stuff for Hams to read!

W7UUU

Survey Center!

How old were you when you first got your license?

Tags: Add Tags

? How old were you when you first got your license?

Edit

* 0-17	99 vote(s)	50.8%
18-24	27 vote(s)	13.8%
25-34	23 vote(s)	11.8%
35-44	19 vote(s)	9.7%
45-54	10 vote(s)	5.1%
55-64	12 vote(s)	6.2%
65+	5 vote(s)	2.6%

Informal and unscientific survey from QRZ but a good indication nonetheless to shed light into the age many QRZ hams got their first license. First vote was on August 6, 2023 and it is current as of the week of this writing.

? Do you contest?

Edit

* Yes	61 vote(s)	52.1%
No	56 vote(s)	47.9%

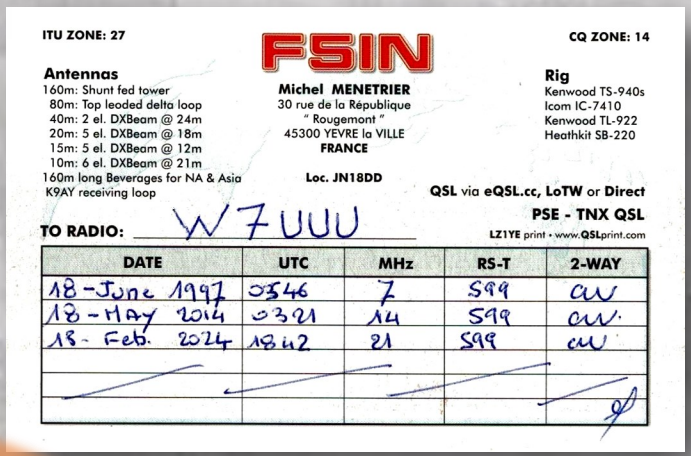
One of the "great divides" in ham radio is contesting.... Some hams loathe it, other hams live for it. Some dabble in contests here and there (me!), others won't touch the radio when a contest is ongoing, and still others won't ever turn the radio on unless there is a major contest playing (almost every weekend of the year). But in the end, it's really a wash with no clear majority either way. *Not a scientific poll.*

-Dave W7UUU

QSL Card of the Month

This is really a fun QSL card!! The very first time I worked a station in France, it was F5IN back in 1983. Sadly I no longer have my log from then. But I worked Michel again on June 18, 1997, then again on May 18th, 2014, and most recently on February 18, 2024!! All on CW, and *all* on the 18th of their respective months—what are the odds?! I noticed this and sent an SASE for a reply card. Alas, he would not go back into his 1983 log to find my WB7AWK QSO, but that's ok. I know I worked him—once in each of four decades! I don't know if that's a record, but it sure is a fun fact!

-Dave W7UUU



ITU ZONE: 27 — CQ ZONE: 14

F5IN

Antennas
160m: Shunt fed tower
80m: Top loaded delta loop
40m: 2 el. DXBeam @ 24m
20m: 5 el. DXBeam @ 18m
15m: 5 el. DXBeam @ 12m
10m: 6 el. DXBeam @ 21m
160m long Beverages for NA & Asia
K9AY receiving loop

Michel MENETRIER
30 rue de la République
" Rougemont "
45300 YEVRE la VILLE
FRANCE
Loc. JN18DD

Rig
Kenwood TS-940s
Icom IC-7410
Kenwood TL-922
Heathkit SB-220

QSL via eQSL.cc, LoTW or Direct
PSE - TNX QSL
LZ1YE print • www.QSLprint.com

TO RADIO: W7UUU

DATE	UTC	MHz	RS-T	2-WAY
18-June 1997	0546	7	599	CW
18-May 2014	0321	14	599	CW
18-Feb. 2024	1842	21	599	CW

Do YOU have an interesting card?

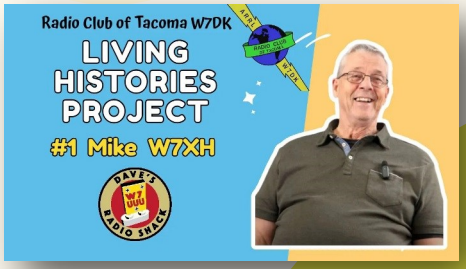
RETURN TO HOME PAGE

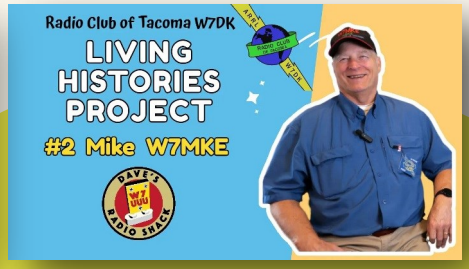
email loggersbark@gmail.com

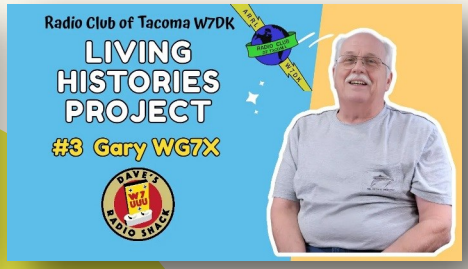
W7DK LIVING HISTORIES

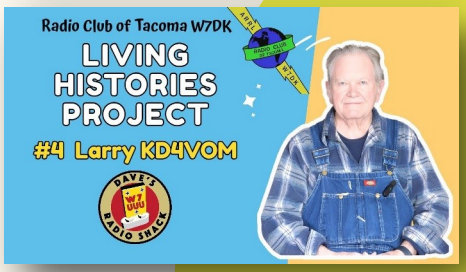
Member video interviews and profiles

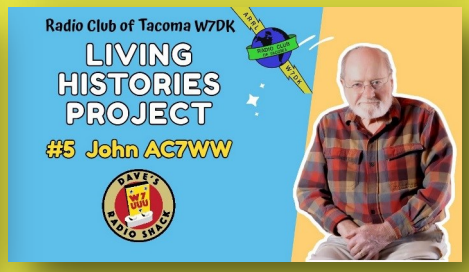
THIS IS THE YEAR IN REVIEW of the W7DK Living Histories Project videos. If you have not watched any of these, you should! It's a great way to get to know some of your fellow members better or to remember those we lost this past year (Steve AF7YD and Bob N7NCP). I will continue to produce such videos as long as there is interest. *-Dave W7UUU*

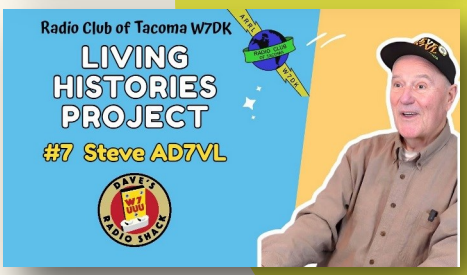


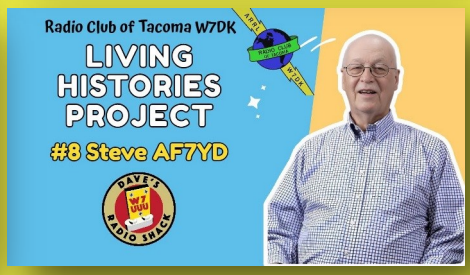


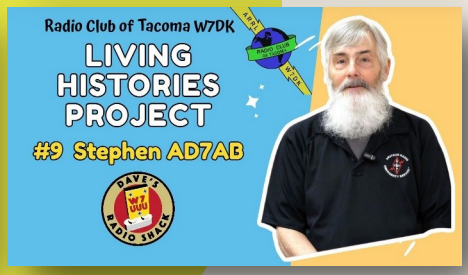


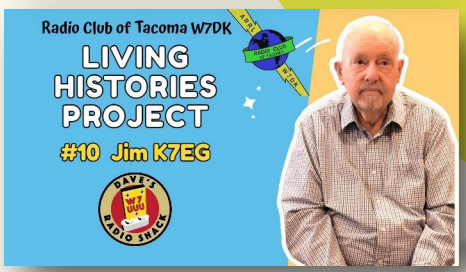


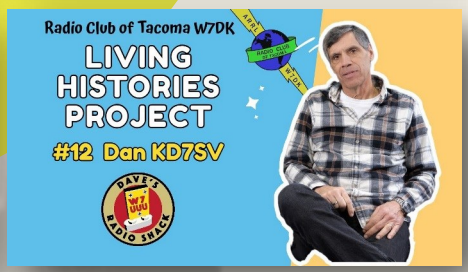










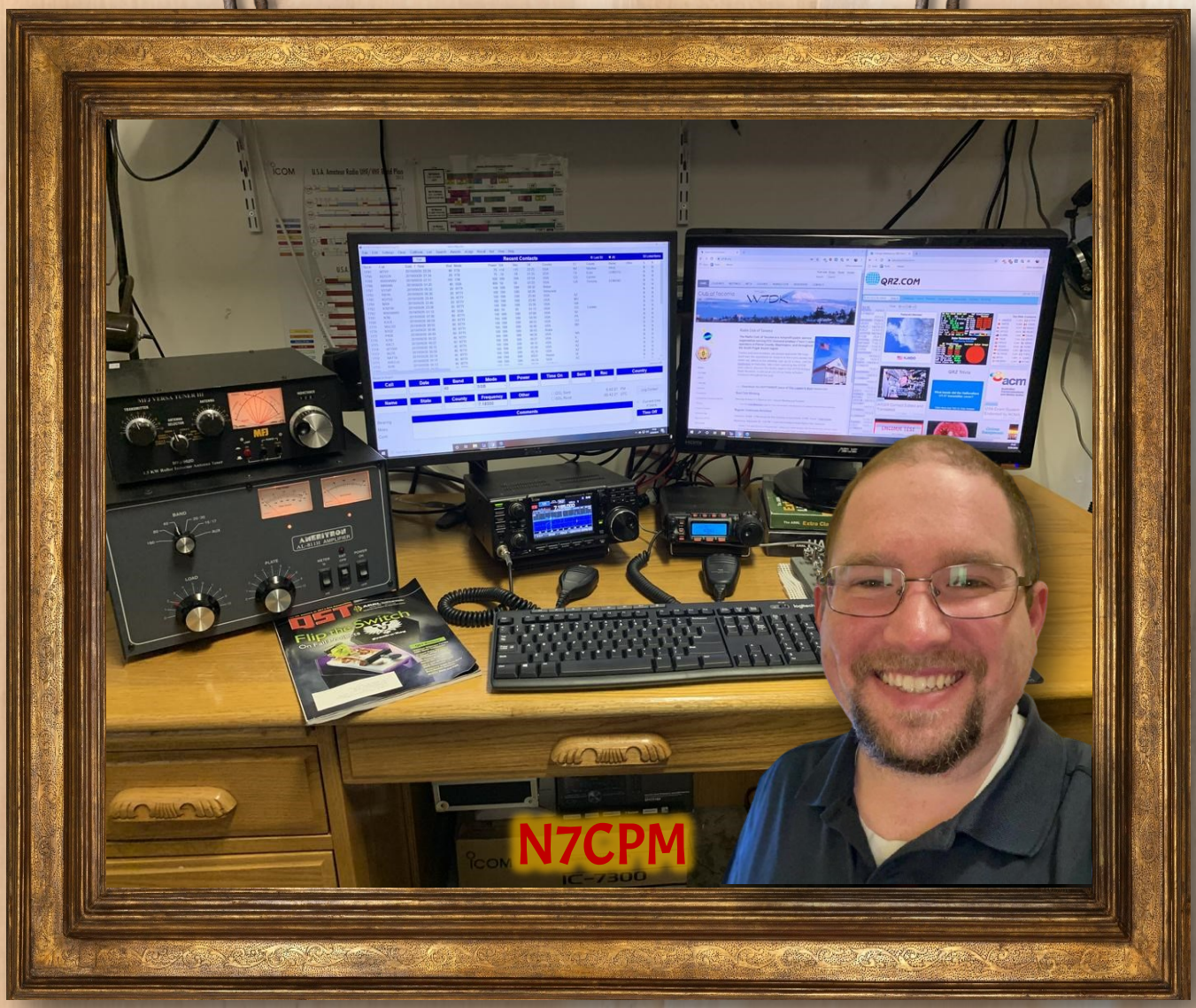


This video may not open for all users

CLICK ON ANY TILE TO GO TO YOUTUBE AND VIEW THE VIDEO

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com



Chris N7CPM joined the Radio Club of Tacoma in June 2014.

For years, he served as 2-meter Net Manager and hosted one of the Tuesday night Roundtable Sessions.

Chris shares on his QRZ page, "After wanting to become a ham operator since I was ten, I earned my Technician ticket in July 2014. By October, I had upgraded to General. In June 2015, just before Field Day, I changed my call from KG7NFF to N7CPM. My QTH is Gig Harbor, WA, where I live with my wife and kids. I'm a member of the Radio Club of Tacoma (W7DK) and have really enjoyed meeting fellow hams there. You can often find me at the clubhouse on Saturday mornings. I'm amazed by how incredible this hobby is! With thousands of areas to explore, I'm constantly discovering new aspects of Amateur Radio. Lately, I've been focusing on CW. While I'm still learning, it's becoming my favorite mode. I use a Vibroplex straight key and bug but am growing fond of my Vibroplex Iambic key. I'm also a fan of digital modes, especially FT8. I hope to see you on the air!"

TNT THE NEW HOT THING

Hot and new products to think about

W7UUU

FOR THIS MONTH'S HOT NEW THING, we're looking at the Apache Labs ANAN G2 HF Ultra High-Performance SDR Transceiver, equipped with a 7-inch touchscreen display. That's surely one of the largest, if not THE largest displays yet built into a transceiver. The marketing photo (above) clearly makes it look more like the Linux computer that runs it than the radio itself!

According to Apache Labs, the G2 "represents a leap forward in software-defined radio (SDR) technology". According to their literature, its features include robust performance, versatile operational modes, and a built-in Linux system to eliminate the need to connect to an external computer.

The ANAN G2 covers HF and 6-meter bands for transmit, with a receive range of 9 KHz to 60 MHz. The transmitter delivers 100 watts PEP in SSB, FM, RTTY, and digital modes, with reduced power (1–30 watts) for AM. As with most SDRs these days, it uses a direct sampling receiver that boasts a dynamic range of 116 dB and an exceptionally low phase noise of -149 dB at 10 kHz. The receiver in the G2 currently ranks at number 12 on the Sherwood Engineering Receiver Test Data chart, based on preliminary evaluation from June of 2024.

The brain of the ANAN-G2 is powered by a built-in Linux-based operating system, allowing standalone operation without requiring a PC (I was not able to find out which Linux distribution is used—but I would imagine it's custom-tweaked by Apache Labs and is not a standard distro).

The internal computer is compatible with Thetis software for advanced users who wish to use specialized signal processing and control when connected to a computer. The Linux computer features a quad-core ARM processor, and should be plenty powerful to operate all aspects of the radio and operating software very smoothly.

The ANAN G2 includes *dual* HDMI 4K video outputs, Gigabit Ethernet, several USB ports, and built-in audio interfaces. An XLR microphone input with a built-in preamp allows for near-broadcast-quality audio for SSB and other voice operations.

Since the ANAN G2 is only in "preorder" status, the only units in the field are for evaluation. But operators who have reviewed the ANAN G2 commend its stellar receiver performance, particularly its ability to handle strong signals without distortion or interference. The touchscreen interface has received positive feedback for its clarity and responsiveness. However, it's clearly a very involved radio and far from a beginner's platform, making it best suited for those with some pretty extensive experience in SDR

TNT THE NEW HOT THING

Hot and new products to think about

W7UUU

operations (beyond that of an IC-7300!).

The flexibility of the ANAN G2 is another reported highlight, with beta users appreciating its ability to function as a standalone radio or integrate seamlessly into a PC-controlled setup… along the lines of a Flex6600 or 8000 series transceiver.

The ANAN G2 could well end up as a serious contender in the fast-growing SDR market, with a pretty decent price point of $4,195 (pre-order price as of this writing). While such a price certainly places it in the premium segment, if it lives up to the Apache Labs hype it could turn into a monster in the upper-end ham radio market. And while not covered in this write-up, they also offer the G2 in a rack-mount 1000 watt variation for $7,495! But that product is not shipping right now.

Only time will tell how the G2 (and the G2-1K) fare in the market—to read more about Apache Labs, you can follow THIS LINK. *-Dave W7UUU*

Above: Saturn SDR PC-board of the ANAN G2

Below: Rear panel—click picture to DOWNLOAD MANUAL

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

W7OS DOC SPIKE MUSEUM

Featured Gear from the Museum

Dave W7UUU

THIS MONTH'S W7OS MUSEUM PIECE became something of a sleuthing project! For most observers, it's just a non-descript old homebrew-looking 3-tube receiver. But there were aspects about it that kept drawing me back to examine it in the vast collection of the W7OS museum collection. Its inventory number 7067 didn't reveal much (but through my research on the radio, has now been updated).

My first thought is it was just a basic homebrew regen, built perhaps in the mid-late 1920s or early 1930s, based on the parts it was made with. The iconic Velvet Vernier tuning dial would date the receiver (if it were built from new parts) squarely in the mid-1920s.

Photo: W7UUU

But the single component that made me wonder if perhaps this were either an early commercial receiver offering or perhaps a kit, was the band-set inductor coil. See the photo on the next page of this article. Note the pronounced arch of the "coil pulling handle" affixed to the top of the inductor, with the reddish pulling hoop on top. That clearly suggested to me a commercially-made coil, not a homemade one that would not have been so fancy with the curved handle. The Bakelite coil form was stamped "Pilot" as are the tube sockets—Pilot being a very common brand of radio parts at the beginning of the radio era.

I posted the photos I took of this receiver on QRZ, and sure enough Art Winterbauer, W0AEW, fairly quickly suggested that it was possibly a manufactured radio product, called the Pilot Wasp.

Jim Palmer, W7JMP, quickly jumped in and posted THIS LINK that very closely matches the museum piece I was looking at: a 1925 receiver called the Pilot Wasp. Designed to cover from 500 meters to 17 meters via five factory-built plug-in coils, the coil in the W7OS receiver with the red ring is model number 180, to cover from 17 to 30 meters. The original cost was $1.75, which would be around $31 in today's dollars. A full 5-coil set ran $9 or $159 today. Pilot actually sold all of the parts necessary to build this all-band receiver, as well as offering it in a full kit including fancy tuning dial, chassis, and front panel. The full kit ran $21.95, or a whopping

W7OS DOC SPIKE MUSEUM

Featured Gear from the Museum

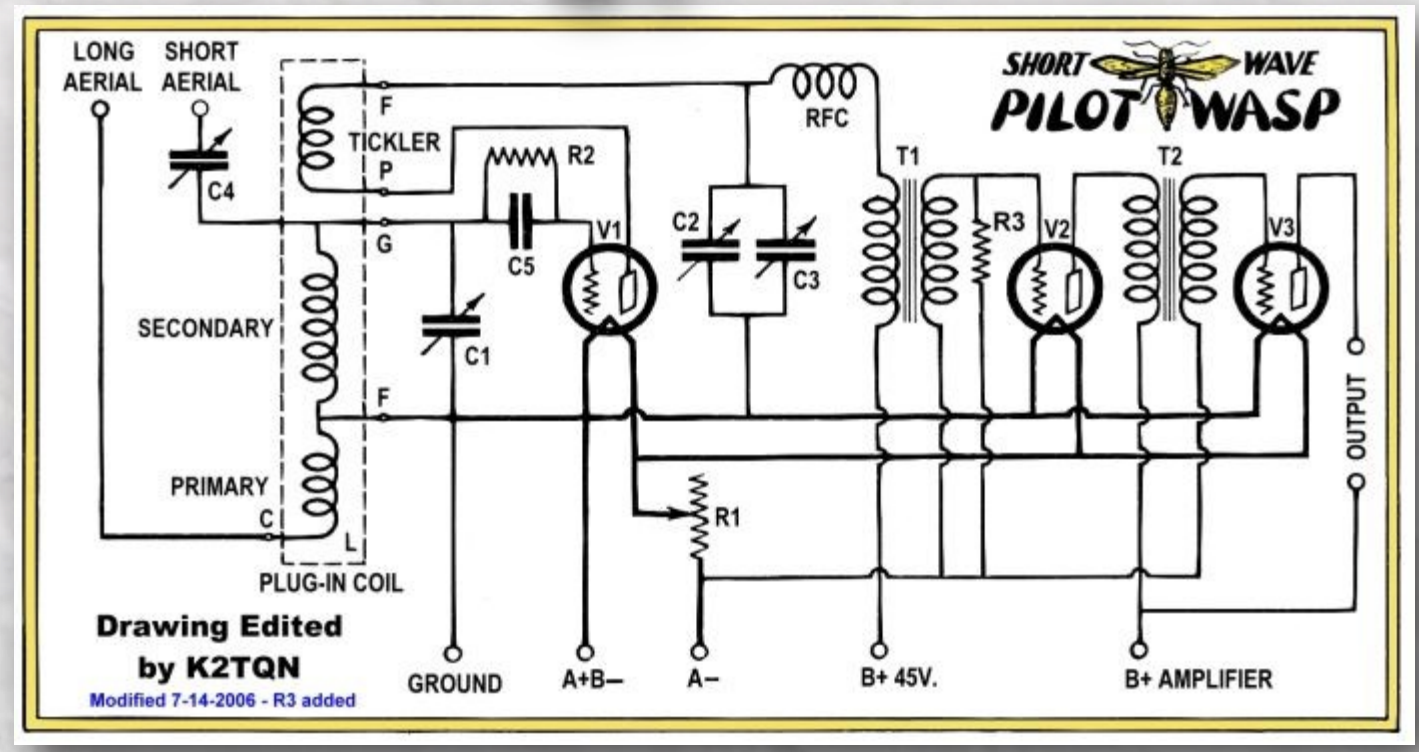
Dave W7UUU

$389 in 2024—this would have been considered a pretty serious amateur receiver in its day.

The W7OS version most assuredly was an amalgam of Pilot-supplied parts (coils for certain), with other parts sourced elsewhere, including the ornate Thordarson interstage audio transformers as seen on the chassis view. It's quite probable that the original builder begged, borrowed and negotiated for suitable substitutes for the more basic parts, but didn't skimp when it came to the precision parts such as the coil set and the all-important National Radio Velvet

Coil set to cover from 500 Meters up to 17 Meters

Coil photos & Schematic by K2TQN



RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com

W7OS DOC SPIKE MUSEUM

Featured Gear from the Museum

Dave W7UUU

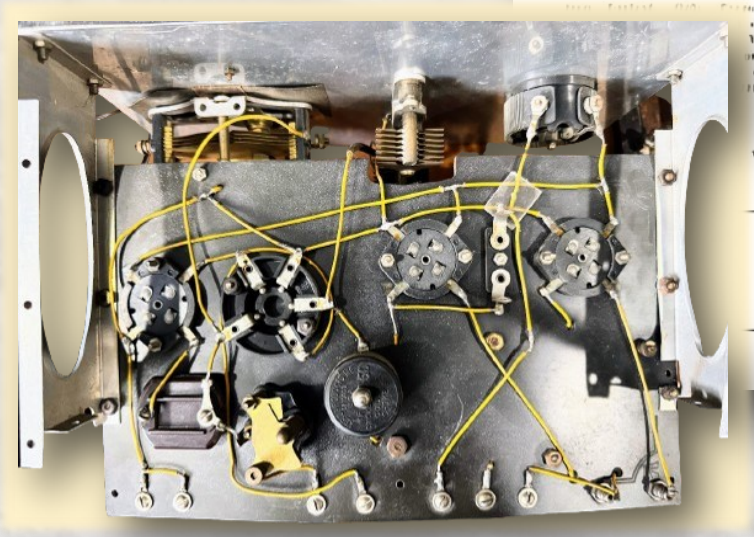
Vernier tuning dial which certainly would have run somewhere near $35 or $40 in today's money.

The rest of the chassis was made with basic materials. The W7OS Wasp is clearly a clone or hybrid of the original Wasp—partially made with Wasp parts, and the rest filled in with what was on hand or could be scavenged.

Next steps: I plan to diagram the circuit in the W7OS Wasp to compare to the original Wasp, then plan the restoration to see if we can get this Wasp back on the air receiving.

Be watching for follow-ups to this column in coming issues of The Logger's Bark Magazine.

-Dave W7UUU



Above: 1925 Pilot Wasp magazine advertisement

Left: W7OS Wasp chassis underside view

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

ANTENNA TIME

Log Periodic Antennas: LPDA

Dave W7UUU

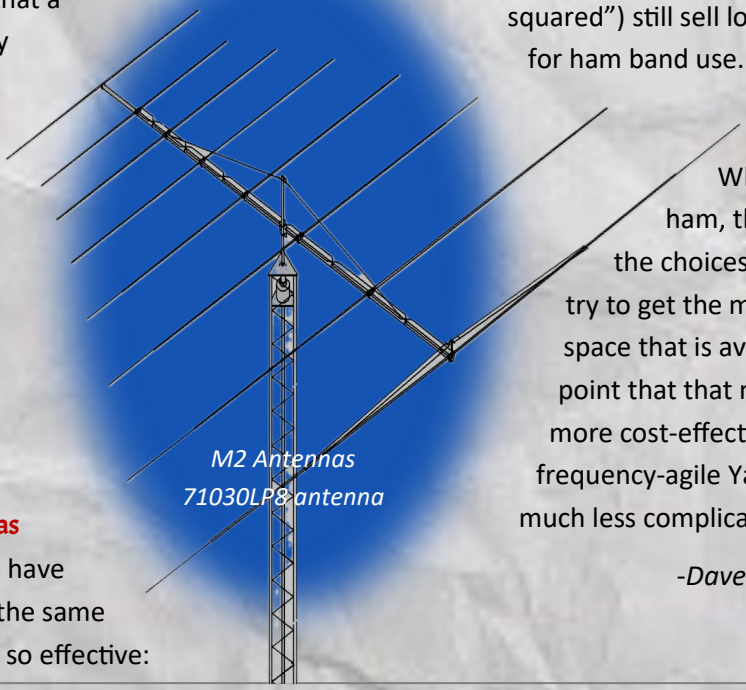
ONE OF THE LESSER SEEN ANTENNAS AMONG hams today is actually the same basic design as the *most ubiquitous* antenna designs of the 20th century! It's called the Log Periodic Dipole Array, or Log Periodic for short; LPDA being the popular reference in print, and the name this article will use. So what do I mean by saying it's arguably the most common antenna type of the 20th century? Virtually every outdoor TV antenna from the 1960s on was of the LPDA design. Why was this?

Log Periodic antennas have some unique characteristics, with the most important having a very broad frequency coverage range, with an acceptable forward gain on all covered frequencies. The analog TV band of the 20th century ran from the low end of Channel 2 at 54 MHz up to channel 13 at 216 MHz… that's an enormous frequency span, and virtually no antenna but an LPDA could have covered such a broad range. Any LPDA antenna, whether for TV, governmental use, or ham radio achieves this wide frequency range by using elements of varying lengths and logarithmic spacing. The math of these designs ensures that a subset of elements resonates on any given frequency, while all the other elements that aren't in play are simply inactive and essentially "invisible". But it's this same concept that also limits the forward gain of an LPDA over a conventional Yagi-Uda design, which can achieve astounding forward gains as high as 20 dBi vs. the 6 to 8 dBi of most LPDA antennas.

While not the most common of antennas for amateur radio use, LPDA antennas have been used by hams for decades for the same reason that LPDA TV antennas were so effective: wide frequency range.

When hams got access to the "WARC Bands" (30, 17, and 12 meters) in 1979, the push was on to develop antennas for hams that could easily cope with the new band allocations. The Log Periodic was a no-brainer for antenna designers world-wide to make and sell antennas to cover all ham bands from as low as 40 meters (7 MHz) up to 10 meters (28 MHz) with all the WARC bands in between. Of course, the trade off was primarily forward gain, with weight being the second factor—a full size LPDA covering all bands will easily exceed 100 pounds and thus require a very heavy-duty rotator system and all that goes with that. But the benefit, especially in the years before antennas like the SteppIR ("frequency agile" Yagi), was more bands on a single antenna, with sufficient forward gain to be reasonably effective on the ham bands.

While never as popular in ham circles as the Yagi-Uda designs, the LPDA antennas have their loyal following among amateurs. Companies such as InnovAntennas, HamSphere, and M2 ("M squared") still sell log-periodic antennas for ham band use.



M2 Antennas 71030LP8 antenna

While not for every ham, the LPDA is one of the choices we as hams have to try to get the most out of the tower space that is available, and a price point that that makes it around 80% more cost-effective than the SteppIR frequency-agile Yagi designs, and much less complicated in design.

-Dave W7UUU

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

Top Ten Countries by Ham Count

TODAY IN THE WORLD THERE ARE around 3.8 million licensed amateur radio operators. Of course, this is just an estimate—access to "real numbers" is pretty sketchy at best. But the table below is a reasonable count by the most recent data that I was able to find at the time of this writing. The big surprise to me is China! Of course, that is the number the CRAC (Chinese Radio Amateurs Club) reports and cannot be confirmed. ■ *-editor*

1	United States:	748,519
2	Japan:	381,899
3	Thailand:	101,763
4	China:	80,000
5	Germany:	63,070
6	United Kingdom:	75,660
7	Canada:	70,198
8	Spain:	58,700
9	South Korea:	42,632
10	Russia:	38,000

Upcoming Ham Fests in the Area

February 15. Salem Hamfair. Rickreall, OR. *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.* http://www.w7sra.com/ . Flyer in PDF.

March 8. Mike & Key Swapmeet. Puyallup, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* Flyer in PDF.

April 12. N7YRC Tailgate Party, Union Gap, WA. Yakima Valley Emergency Management, 2403 S. 18th St., Union Gap, WA. *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.* Map in PDF.

April 19. Kamiah Hamfest. American Legion Hall 618 Main St. Kamiah, ID. https://www.3riversarc.club

May 10. Stanwood Camano ARC 32nd Annual Electronic Flea Market and Hamfest. Stanwood, WA. https://scarcwa.org/ham_fest.shtm .

May. SWIARC Spring 2025 Spring HamFest, Peace Valley Charter School, 1845 S. Federal Way, Boise, ID 83701 http://www.dosomethingradio.com

May 30, 31 and June 1. SEA-PAC Hamfest and ARRL Northwestern Division Convention. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. https://seapac.org/

Radio Club of Tacoma Ham Fair 1970

COOL GEAR!

Interesting Bits of Gear Any Ham Can Use

By W7UUU

WHILE NOT REALLY A HAM RADIO PRODUCT, a laser measuring device such as this can be indispensable around the shack and shop. A couple of years ago, while rebuilding my shack after a devasting fire in October 2020, I had the need to measure distances around the room on a regular basis. Sure, a tape measure is certainly very useful for this—but a laser device allows for many precise measurements in a very short time. And places where a tape measure might be difficult to use, a laser measuring tool can often do a great job. During this time, I was still working (retired in November of 2022), and also had the need to measure the height of speakers and other sound system components while doing site surveys.

The device I picked to handle this chore is the LOMVUM LV66U laser measuring device. It operates on the principle of "time-of-flight measurement". Basically, it involves shooting a LED-derived laser beam towards a target and measuring the time it takes for the beam to reflect back to the device. The speed of light may certainly be fast—but it's very easy to measure these days!

The LV66U emits a pulse of laser light at the target—a wall, a radio cabinet, the ceiling or any other object or surface. The actual "laser pulse" from the device is in the infrared spectrum, and invisible to the naked eye. But they also pack a high-intensity visible red LED aligned with the laser LED so you can tell where you're pointing the device.

Once the laser light reflects back to the LV66U, an internal optical-electronic system kicks in to detect the beam and then measure how long it took to go out and come back. Given that light travels at 983,571,056 feet per second (!!), it's a pretty simple matter to measure how long the light from the laser LED took to bounce off the distant object and come back, and convert it to feet. Modern fast dedicated processors make this not only easy to do, but cheap! The LOMVUM LV66U can be purchased on Amazon for under $20, with freight included for Prime members. Pretty cool piece of gear to have in any workshop.

-Dave W7UUU

Photo by Dave W7UUU

LOMVUM LV66U Laser Measuring device—click image to view on Amazon (no affiliation)

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com

HAM TECH 101

Useful tech info for newer hams and old

All About Changing Callsigns

Jim AF5NP

This column is reprinted monthly with permission of AF5NP from his blog www.NEWHAMS.info
References to FCC question numbers may be out of date but the content will still be accurate

SO YOU JUST PASSED THE TECH LICENSE EXAM and your new call sign just appeared on the FCC ULS database. Congratulations!

Let's say you were assigned KG5ZXY, but that's both hard to remember and hard to pronounce phonetically. Or maybe you've been licensed for years but just don't like the call sign you have.

Either way you would really like something different; maybe a catchy one or a call that has your initials or something shorter or easier to remember. Don't despair! You can request a specific call sign if it is available, termed a "vanity call".

T1C02-2018 Who may select a desired call sign under the vanity call sign rules?
Any licensed amateur

Vanity call signs typically include alphabetical characters of personal significance (e.g., licensees initials, parts of names, hobbies, etc.), or sometimes are simply chosen because they are shorter calls, or sometimes they have double or triple duplicate characters (e.g., W1WWW).

Note: this information is valid for USA hams. Many other countries have vanity call programs but the details and rules will be different.

Now there are limitations to call signs, of course. This is a good time to review our call sign variations topic where you can learn about valid prefixes, suffixes, formats, and quantity of characters.

It goes without saying that you cannot request a call that is already issued (for two years after expiration or death, in fact), so the call sign must be available.

Then there is the issue of privileges. Here's where the Extra class license gets top priority because they can choose any vacant, valid US call sign: 1×3 and 2×3 formats, and, more typically, the prized 1×2, 2×1 or 2×2 (beginning with letter A), for which there is fierce competition.

Advanced class licensees (legacy; no longer issued) can seek a 2×2 or 1×3 call sign (beginning with prefix N, K or W), or a 2×3 call sign (beginning with prefix letter K or W).

T1C05-2018: Which of the following is a valid call sign for a Technician class amateur radio station?
K1XXX

General or Technician class licensees can seek a 1×3 call sign (beginning with prefix N, K or W), or 2×3 call sign (beginning with prefix letter K or W). Relatively few graphite 1×3 N calls are available.

Note that you do not need to keep your regional number with a vanity call—any number from 0-9 may be selected. This greatly expands the pool of available calls just by changing the number. You should also know there are some call signs blocked off from vanity assignment (see list below).

Most new Tech or General hams with 2×3 calls are likely to go for a more tidy 1×3, but if a particular 2×3 spells out something fun, memorable, or personal, go

for it!

Application for a vanity call can be done directly with the FCC through their ULS website. You have to be logged in with your FRN number and password and then follow links that will be shown once you look at your own license. There is no longer a "snail mail" method to do this—it's 100% online now.

There is a $35 fee to apply for a Vanity Call and the application process will include the steps to accomplish this step. FCC processing take at *least* 18 days and sometimes longer—patience is required! Once the FCC assigns a new call your old one is invalid until reassigned.

Navigating the FCC ULS can be challenging—but if you go slowly, and follow all the steps without skipping anything, it's not that bad.

From the FCC vanity call FAQ: The following call signs are *not* available for assignment:

KA2AA-KA9ZZ, KC4AAA-KC4AAF, KC4USA-KC4USZ, KG4AA-KG4ZZ, KC6AA-KC6ZZ, KL9KAA- KL9KHZ, KX6AA-KX6ZZ

Or any call sign having the letters SOS or QRA-QUZ as the suffix.

Or any call sign having the letters AM-AZ as the prefix (these prefixes are assigned to other countries by the ITU).

- Or any 2-by-3 format call sign having the letter X as the first letter of the suffix;
- Or any 2-by-3 format call sign having the letters AF, KF, NF, or WF as the prefix and the letters EMA as the suffix (U.S Government FEMA stations).
- Or any 2-by-3 format call sign having the letters AA -AL as the prefix.
- Or any 2-by-3 format call sign having the letters NA -NZ as the prefix.
- Or any 2-by-3 format call sign having the letters WC, WK, WM, WR, or WT as the prefix (Group X call signs).
- Or any 2-by-3 format call sign having the letters KP, NP or WP as the prefix and the numeral 0, 6, 7, 8 or 9.
- Or any 2-by-2 format call sign having the letters KP, NP or WP as the prefix and the numeral 0, 6, 7, 8 or 9.
- Or any 2-by-1 format call sign having the letters KP, NP or WP as the prefix and the numeral 0, 6, 7, 8 or 9.

Call signs in the 1x1 format, having the single letter prefix (K, N or W), a single digit numeral 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and a single letter suffix, are reserved for the special event call sign system.

If you are seriously considering getting a vanity call sign, we strongly encourage you to read through all the detail presented below (helpful hints in particular) to know what's involved and how to go about it.

HELPFUL HINTS

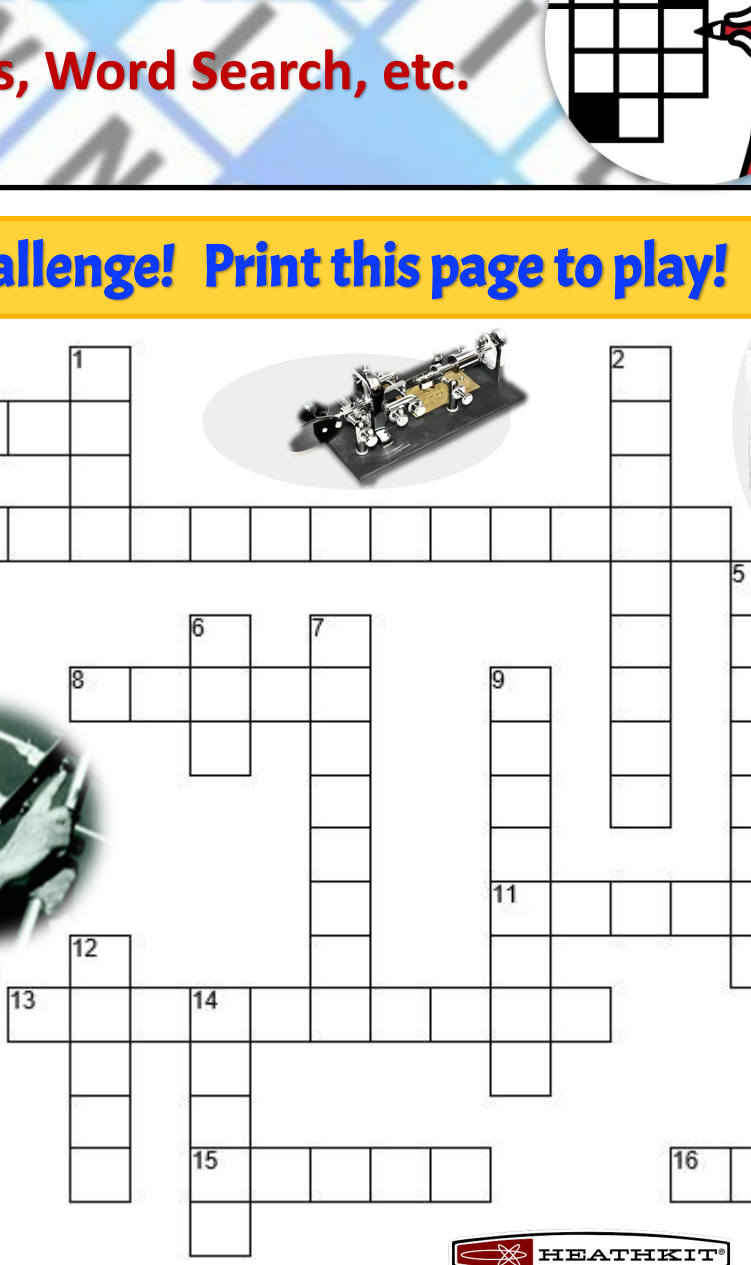
Lookup potential calls: HERE or HERE

-Jim AF5NP

FUN AND GAMES!

Crosswords, Word Search, etc.

Crossword Challenge! Print this page to play!



HEATHKIT®

Across

3. Mr. Yagi got all the press but it was his engineer friend who did all the hard stuff

4. Mr. Halligan started a radio company and he called it....

8. The Chinese radio brand called Wouxun when pronounced in English sounds just like....

11. _____ Bark

13. Boat anchor receivers designed by Oscar _____

15. Doctor Clifford J. _____

16. The part of a transistor that functions much like the grid of a tube

Down

1. Mr. Morse's assistant

2. The biggest brand and best known maker of semi-automatic Morse keys

5. A device used to listen to information sent by radio

6. If you had a radio device called a J-38, what type of device would it be?

7. The fancy name for a coil of wire used in an RF circuit

9. Long before Heath Co. sold electronic kits they sold _____ kits

10. A device used to send information by radio

12. When things are unbalanced but need to be otherwise, this device is what you need

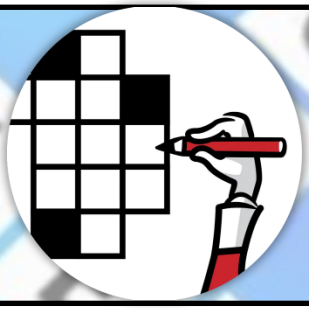
14. The guy who sent "What hath God wrought?" via radio

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

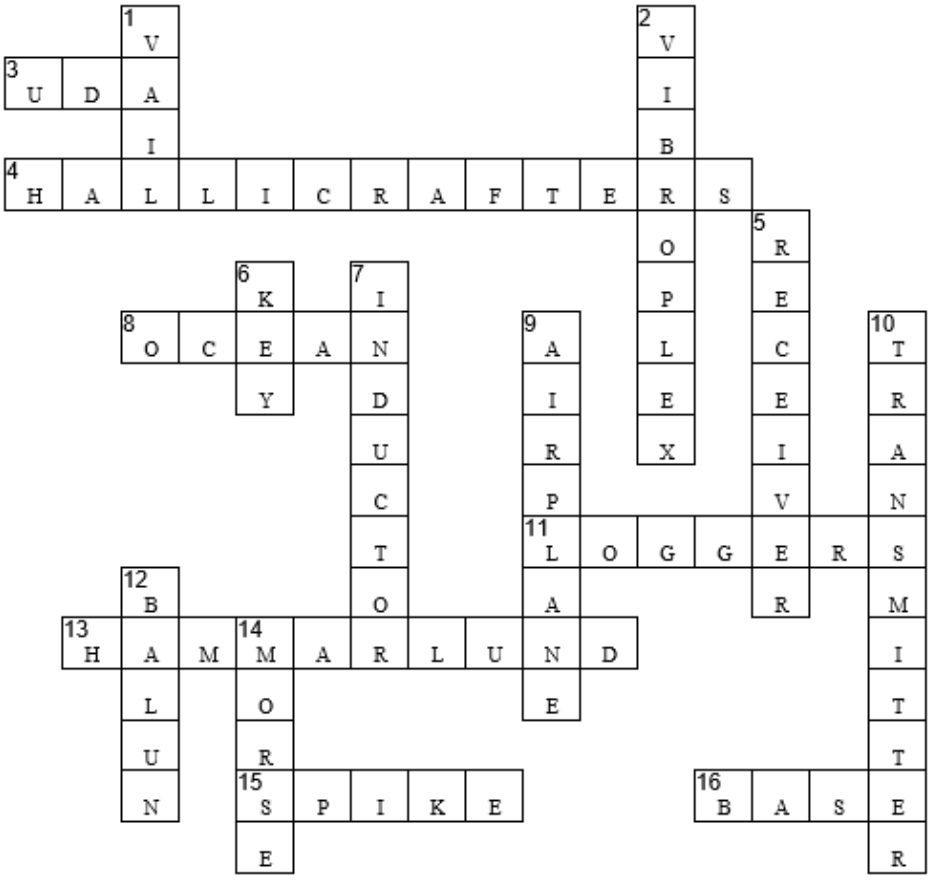
email loggersbark@gmail.com

FUN AND GAMES!

Crosswords, Word Search, etc.



Answer Key… but don't cheat!



Across

3. Mr. Yagi got all the press but it was his engineer friend who did all the hard stuff
4. Mr. Halligan started a radio company and he called it....
8. The Chinese radio brand called Wouxun when pronounced in English sounds just like....
11. _____ Bark
13. Boat anchor receivers designed by Oscar _____
15. Doctor Clifford J. _____
16. The part of a transistor that functions much like the grid of a tube

Down

1. Mr. Morse's assistant
2. The biggest brand and best know maker of semi-automatic Morse keys
5. A device used to listen to information sent by radio
6. If you had a radio device called a J-38, what type of device would it be?
7. The fancy name for a coil of wire used in an RF circuit
9. Long before Heath Co. sold electronic kits they sold _____ kits
10. A device used to send information by radio
12. When things are unbalanced but need to be otherwise, this device is what you need
14. The guy who sent "What hath God wrought?" via radio

About this Publication

The Logger's Bark is the official publication of the Radio Club of Tacoma and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law. All proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98405, phone: 253-759-2040.

Emailing Officers

To contact any club officer, simply send an email to their call sign @W7DK.org

Contributions of Articles & Photos

We WELCOME contributions of articles, guest editorials, blurbs, Hints-and-Kinks, shack photos, QSL cards, memorable contacts, anything of interest to your fellow members. Submit your materials via email to: loggersbark@gmail.com or via US mail to PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411 Nichrome

Radio Club of Tacoma Repeaters

Central Tacoma 2m:	**147.28 + PL Tone 103.5**
Central Tacoma 70cm:	**440.625 + PL Tone 103.5**
Crawford Mountain:	**147.380 + PL Tone 103.5**
North Tacoma:	**145.21 - PL Tone 141.3**

The Loggers Bark ***does not*** accept AI / ChatGPT submissions

Membership Information

- Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $20 per year.
- Fees are applicable for the calendar year: January to December
- Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.
- Visit www.w7dk.org For the latest and most current information on events and activities

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CLICK HERE!

Have a submission for our next issue?

loggersbark@W7DK.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

W7DK

Radio Club of Tacoma

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2024

Meeting called to order at 19:00 by President Mike W7XTZ

Officers and Directors Present

President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Vice President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
Board	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA (Zoom)
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC (zoom)

NOTE: These approved meeting minutes are reproduced here without any alterations other than to fit the available space, and to redact dollar amounts per Board rules. All language, punctuation, and spelling are exactly as submitted to the editor.

Quorum: yes

Motion for approval of Minutes as previously distributed:

Motion to approve the minutes as distributed passed without objections.

Silent Key or Illness?

Steve AF7YD is still in hospice. His mind is sharp but is body is very weak. Dan KD7SV delivered flowers and best wishes yesterday to his wife Donna.

Gary McAdams WG7X and his XYL Sue are both sick at home after their east coast cruise.

Secretary's Report (acting Sec. Mike W7MKE)

Lots of mail for membership returns and Bigfoot requests for QSL cards or Certificates.

Asst. Treasurer's Report (Doug AB7DG)

Doug reports he's not entirely current and he is trying to deal with PayPal income. RCT has asked that those paying with PayPal add $2 to the invoice. So far with 50 transactions we're about $27 to the good. He sub-

mitted a draft (preliminary) income/expense statement (attached) and a total of banking deposits. He also reported that Benevity income is approximately $500 all from Microsoft who match their worker's in-kind work with donations.

Doug asked how we are doing to get a new Treasurer. Shay Winget has offered her help but has not been an RCT member for the required two years, so is not qualified to be an officer. She is willing to work with Doug Schafer or whoever to help as needed. In January, the office of Treasurer will be vacant, and the

club president can appoint a new officer.

Committee Reports

Facilities Management (Adam W2NCC)

The thermostat in the clubhouse has been replaced. Tacoma Power has replaced the electric meter on the exterior of the house. We are finishing the Coax feedline entrance into the clubhouse and the work will be completed this year. This includes the installation of the new baluns/coax for the 40- and 80-meter antennas. A second garage clean-up is planned, and research is being done on countertop and cabinets for the garage. There have been conversations about storage issues around the clubhouse. We are collecting ideas.

Membership (Mike W7XH)

Salmon run participants and income: 78 participants and $10,000 in income. Membership stands at 361.

Mike indicated that membership retention is in part due to activities like the soldering class, open house, and activities suggested by the planning committee.

General Meeting (Dave 7UUU)

The presentation at the monthly meeting will be Michael Walker VA3MW and KE2EAF with flex radio systems.

Dave also reports he's well on his way with the December BARK and requests that contributors get there stuff submitted ASAP that the 15th is the deadline, and earlier contributions are greatly appreciated.

HF Committee (Phil K7PIA)

Phil reports that stations are operational. We're waiting on the Palstar amp that Gary WG7X ordered this morning directly from Palstar and is expected to ship in 2-3 weeks.

Good contest coming up Sideband sweeps Nov. 16th -17th . CQ worldwide CW on Nov. 26th 27th .

Randy WB4SPB will set up logging.

Thursday Night HF (Mike W7MKE)

I am continuing Thursday night's 6-9pm "open house" for HF operations.

I need to continue advertising the availability of this opportunity to members.

No open house on 11/28 (Thanksgiving) or 12/26 (Day after Christmas)

Thursday night open house will be discontinued if no one is interested after December 19th.

Info Tech / Website / 4th Wednesday (Randy WB4SPB)

Randy reports all systems nominal.

Nothing for 4th Wednesday

Website is up to date.

Library (Doug AD7AV)

We have been given the opportunity to have our bound BARKs scanned for the Ham Internet Archive (and providing club free access to search). I am getting details from the person who helped us get our club history also in the Archive. Could this be listed on the agenda for discussion & possible decision. I'm also surveying opinions from the library committee, but Al N7OMS, George K7GRS, or Randy WB4SPB would have to be at the board meeting in my stead (given my secretarial duties for ARCS).

Doug (Douglas E. Oakman, Prof. Emeritus of Religion)

The board had no concerns if the binding is not broken, and the volume would be returned in the same condition as received.

Museum (Dan KD7SV)

Dan reports that last Saturday Randy and Dan gave a presentation via Zoom to the Long Island CW Club. It seemed to go well.

They are currently working on a Valient, and the transmitter was not working all the time but now it seems to be OK. The VFO needs to be aligned, and it should be good to go. Dan thinks it will be a good addition.

Adam secured a donation of Hallicrafter equipment that was a real load to get upstairs and is ready to be checked. It looks like a clean piece of equipment and should be a nice addition.

Planning Committee (Manny AD7MA)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

W7DK

Committee meets on the last Sunday of each month and are considering several ways to encourage members and recruit new members. They will not meet again until January.

They discussed social media and have made some progress on the Facebook page.

There was discussion on having a **Training and Education Committee** with Stephen AD7AB as chair. It is expected he will appoint more members to assist in training and education.

Property Management (Red WB7EC)

In October PMT took in $1820. Last Saturday PMT sold 8 boat anchors!

See attached PMT List: BOD approved disposal of items on the PMT list.

Repeater Ops (AL N7OMS)

Nothing more from the Olympia group about partnering with Crawford Mountain.

He wants to move forward with Adam about getting grants to replace repeaters. There was a discussion about what kind of repeaters to get. If we get Icom gear it could do both digital and analog. Digital users do not hear analog transmissions.

Repeater Roundabout contest is November 23rd-24th. https://www.repeaterroundabout.com/

Tower (Nick K7MO/Adam W2NCC)

Adam said he's talked to Nick K7MO about the entrance panel that brings coax into the club house.

POTA (BJ K07T)

The last event only BJ and Jessica showed up. It was Sunday during the BF special event and BJ worked a Big Foot Special Event callsign. The next POTA is this Sunday at Dash Point in the pavilion on the upper lot.

No POTA events scheduled for December. BJ will plan for January--March soon.

Unfinished Business:

Get to know the Radio Club conference – W2NCC

The conference is still on November 16th and Adam is working on the agenda. The program is advertised via an email blast. The objective is to present RCT to prospective new members, showing what

we do.

Soldering Class Update – Paul K7OSS

Paul N7OSS reported we had 13 participants to the soldering class and Randy WB4SPB, Adam W2NCC and Manny AD7MA helped Paul. The class worked on kits, and all were completed that evening.

If the club is interested in doing this, perhaps we can do another build. We need a kit with good documentation. Perhaps an AM receiver?

New Business

Grant proposal: – Adam W2NCC

A The grant proposal for the 2025 General Meeting Venue, requesting $2,100, has been sent to the ARRL.

EmComm (Doug AB7DG)

I propose that the club fund (or co-fund with local ARES) the printing of I-AM-SAFE tablets intake forms. I've received a print shop's quote for 100 50-page tablets of the intake forms for $453 + tax. I intend to provide a tablet or partial tablet to each ham that is willing to help their neighbors and nearby shelter survivors to send out I-AM-SAFE messages in case of a local/regional disaster.

Doug has received support from local ARES to donate half the cost of the tablets so he's asking for about $250 for the tablets.

The RCT currently has 90 members that are ARES members and could be trained to use the I-AM-SAFE system.

Doug Schafer, RCT EmComm chair.

Doug AB7DG Moved that RCT pay for ½ the cost of 100- 50-page tablets of I-AM-SAFE intake forms. The estimated cost is $250. Paul W7PFU seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mike W7MKE offered to check pricing at Dole Printing for another estimate.

Honorary Member nomination – Adam W2NCC

Adam was asked by a club member to nominate Ollie Bond, AD7CC, as an Honorary Member.

Attached is the nomination for Ollie bond.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

W7DK

Adam W2NCC moved that the nomination of Ollie be approved. Motion was seconded by Mike W7MKE.

The discussion was that the explanation of the proposed membership focuses more on his Amateur Radio activities and benefit to our club rather than his gardening activities.

It was also discussed at which meeting the vote should be taken as quorums are hard to get.

The motion Passed without objections.

November 6th	**Wednesday**	**Board Meeting** **Committee chairs submit Budgets at BOD meeting.**
November 9th	**Saturday**	**Annual Business Meeting of Radio Club.** **President appoints Election Committee to count ballots**
December 4th	**Wednesday**	**RCT Board Meeting**
December 8th	**Saturday**	**RCT Banquet at Collins Grange**

Adjournment at: 21:13

Respectfully,

Mike Drorbaugh

Acting Secretary

Attachments: **Attendance List**

Treasurer's Report

PMT List

Oliver Bond Nomination

Radio Club of Tacoma

Annual Meeting

November 9, 2024

Meeting called to order at: 13:02

NOTE: These approved meeting minutes are reproduced here without any alterations other than to fit the available space, and to redact dollar amounts per Board rules. All language, punctuation, and spelling are exactly as submitted to the editor.

Officers and Directors Present

President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Vice President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Director	Doug Schafer AB7DG
Director	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
Director	Paul Matney W7PFU
Director	Phil Pia K7PIA
Director	Red Cranefield WB7EC

Quorum? **10% of membership required:** A total of thirty-seven voting members attended in person or via zoom which constituted a quorum.

Flag Salute led by Mike W7XTZ

Silent Key or Illness?

Steve AF7YD is still in hospice. His mind is sharp but is body is very weak.

New members or visitors:

One of our newest members, Bill Brown KK7VUG from Gig Harbor and Ben Foster KI7JKX a newer member from Tacoma were in attendance.

Appointment of Election Committee:

President appointed Mike W7XH, Paul W7PFU, Dave AC7KP were to be the election committee to count ballots.

Meeting Program

GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

W7DK

Dan Walker N7HQ with flex radio was introduced by Dave W7UUU. Dan gave a rundown on capabilities of the Flex Radio line with emphasis on the new line of 8000 series radio now available along with the matching amplifier and tuner.

Election Results

Adam– W2NCC was elected president

Dan Vacanti --KD7SV was elected as director

David Ashley –W7GEL was elected as director

Membership Report (W7XH)

Membership stands at 362 with 335 voting members

SR received over $10,000 with about 80 contributors

Several people indicated still yet to fulfill pledge

You can visit W7DK.org website to make Salmon Run, membership payments or order badges using PayPal

POTA (KO7T – BJ)

Bigfoot

QSOs totaled over 15,000

We will start processing envelopes Monday 6-9pm at the clubhouse. Bring your laptop if you have one

We learned a lot about doing a special event and expect to use that to better next year

POTA

We have a POTA event at Dash Point tomorrow at the upper pavilion starting at 10am

BJ will ry to do POTA and winter field day together again this year as we did last year by fining a park with shelters.

Dave W7UUU wants to have announcement ASAP so they can get into the BARK

Honorary Member nomination – Adam W2NCC

Adam was asked by club members to nominate Ollie Bond, AD7CC, as an Honorary Member

Adam W2NCC read his nomination application to the members present, the nomination was signed by Adam W2NCC, Mike Isakson W7XH and Bruce Hanson WE7P. It is attached to these minutes.

The RCT BOD considered the nomination at the November 6th meeting and voted unanimously to recommend the membership approve Ollie's nomination.

The membership present voted unanimously to approve Oliver Bond AD7CC as an Honorary Member of the Radio Club of Tacoma in view of his outstanding contributions to our club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Get to know W7DK: Nov. 16th at Eagles for NON-MEMBERS.

Christmas Banquet at Collins Grange December8th (first Sunday)

- Prizes
- Live music
- Club provides turkey and ham.
- Potluck event

Thursday night at RCT to use HF room radios. Elmers available.

The door prize was an SWR meter and was won by Chuck Kemmer AC7QN

Adjournment at: 14:30

Submitted by

Mike Drorbaugh – W7MKE

Acting Secretary

Attachments: Attendance list

Oliver Bond AD7CC's Nominating Document